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Lakshya storms into the last-four stage

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Multi-pronged approach to tackle inequalities, push to develop AI

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Budget for 2026-27 has adopted a multi-pronged approach through sectoral and issue-based measures to address socioeconomic inequalities, combining short-term welfare schemes with long-term investments aimed at accelerating infrastructure growth.

The Budget focused on addressing the skill deficit among youth and promoting the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who presented the State Budget in the Legislative Assembly on Friday, proposed a total outlay of ₹4,48,004 crore, while continuing allocations of over ₹50,000 crore for the government's guarantee schemes.

The Budget – the 17th presented by Mr. Siddaramaiah in his political career – estimated a revenue deficit of ₹22,957 crore, making it the third consecutive deficit Budget tabled by the ruling Congress government. It has proposed borrowings of ₹1.32 lakh crore, compared with ₹1.16 lakh crore in 2025-26.

While the Budget outlines measures to mobilise revenues for welfare and development programmes, it also raises questions about the long-term sustainability of the fiscal path chosen by the government.

Highlighting the "11G Economic Model" for Karnataka's development – encompassing the guarantee economy, gig economy, green economy, grassroots economy, geographical equality – the Budget emphasises principles of equity, inclusivity, and justice associated with the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi and economist Amartya Sen.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the government is pursuing a developmental path that balances growth, welfare, and fiscal discipline, adding that the Budget does not propose any new taxes.

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Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, presenting the State Budget for 2026-27, in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Karnataka Budget 2026-27

Total outlay ₹4,48,004 crore	Capital expenditure ₹74,682 crore	Revenue deficit ₹22,957 crore	Liabilities ₹8,24,389 crore (24.94% of GSDP)
	Loan repayment ₹35,316 crore	Fiscal Deficit ₹97,449 crore (2.95% of GSDP)	State's own tax revenue ₹2,20,000 crore
Revenue expenditure ₹3,38,007 crore	Government of India receipts ₹79,050 crore		Borrowings ₹1,32,000 crore

U.S. 'allows' India to buy Russian oil for 30 days

Analysts say the move can help India mitigate price and supply shocks; however, Russian oil may no longer come at a discount, with China also competing for supplies, say government sources

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

The U.S. Treasury Department on Friday issued an order that would "allow" India to import Russian oil for 30 days, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said while sharing the order on X.

Analysts say this will help mitigate the spike in the price of oil and delays in oil shipments to import-dependent India.

However, government sources confirmed that Russian oil may no longer come at a discount and that China was also competing for it. The government is currently studying the legal order, they added.

Mr. Bessent said the U.S. was granting India this reprieve to "alleviate pressure caused by Iran's attempt to take global energy hostage".

"This deliberately short-term measure will not provide significant financial benefit to the Russian government as it only authorises transactions involving oil already stranded at sea," Mr. Bessent said.

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Cong. slams govt. over U.S. remark

NEW DELHI
Criticising the Centre over U.S. remarks, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that India's strategic autonomy and national sovereignty are under threat "because PM is getting blackmailed on Epstein files and Adani case". » PAGE 18

Use cooking fuel judiciously: govt.

CHENNAI
With restrictions placed on LPG supplies, the public has been advised to use the fuel judiciously. Sources said commercial consumers using 19 kg cylinders were told they will not be given supplies. » PAGE 19

Budget announces excise duty based on alcohol in beverage

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In what is aimed at reforming Excise sector and that could have an impact on prices of alcohol sold in Karnataka, the State government on Friday announced that it would step away from regulating prices of alcohol and introduce Excise duty structure based on Alcohol in Beverage (AIB). Over the next three to four years, the State will bring in a system of levying uniform Excise duty based on the alcohol content per litre.

The AIB is an Excise duty structure that is globally recognised as the gold standard for alcohol taxation and this will be introduced from April 2026, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced in the 2026-2027 Budget on Friday, in which he set a revenue target of ₹45,000 crore for the Excise department. So far, ₹36,492 crore has been collected, reflecting a growth of 12.7 % till February this year. "The government will ensure that the price changes are gradual and not disruptive," he said.

Under the new policy, the government-administrated price fixation will be completely deregulated and product placement within slabs will be left to the producers based on market considerations. While the government had rationalised and reduced the Excise duty slabs last year from 18 to 16 slabs, the Chief Minister announced that it would be further reduced to 8 slabs.

Sources said that the announcements were part of reforms in Excise sector that commenced last year. "We are hoping that this would increase excise revenue, but will take time. Due to rate rationalisation, Excise revenue from super premium brands have gone up by 50% and premium brands have gone up by 30% though they do not contribute heavily to overall excise collection." On deregulation of prices, sources said, "There is no reason why the government should fix prices of alcohol."

Welcoming the reforms, The International Spirits and Wine Association of India Chief Executive Officer Sanjit Padhi said, "Market-determined pricing allows market conditions to define prices in a way that benefits consumers, government and suppliers alike. The reduction of slabs will provide brands greater headroom to set appropriate pricing for consumers."

Social media curbs for children below 16, reintroduction of student union polls

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

With the objective of preventing adverse effects of increasing mobile phone usage among children, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced in his 17th State Budget that usage of social media will be banned for children under the age of 16.

He also announced the re-introduction of student union elections in colleges and universities, after it was banned nearly four decades ago.

He said it would "foster leadership, responsibility, and democratic values among students". Both have been much-debated contentious issues.

In a recent meeting with the Vice-Chancellors of State public universities chaired by the Governor, the Chief Minister had proposed a mobile ban for schoolchildren and sought opinion from all stakeholders. There has been public debate on this issue since, and experts are divided on the impact and feasibility of a blanket ban.

Experts are divided on the impact and feasibility of a blanket ban.

Mr. Siddramaiah in his presentation did not spell out a road map for implementation of the ban.

A similar ban on social media for children below the age of 16 was made into a law in Australia in December 2025.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu told the State's Assembly on Friday that the State will restrict access to social media for children below the age of 13 over the next 90 days.

Responding to the proposal, Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka has welcomed the move, but emphasised the need for planning its implementation. "The government should form an expert committee, obtain a detailed report regarding its implementation, prepare appropriate Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and implement them," urged Shashi Kumar D., general secretary of the association.

Student union elections were banned in the State decades ago, following involvement of rowdy sheeters in the elections. However, Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, has been advocating reintroducing them. Following this, the KPCC had constituted a committee of legislators headed by Ministers for Higher Education and Medical Education, which held multiple stakeholder meetings.

Rohith Vemula Act

The Budget also announced that the much-awaited Rohith Vemula Act will be enacted to prevent caste-based atrocities in the higher educational institutions. It was part of the Congress's manifesto for 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

STATE BUDGET 2026-27

NEARBY

State's agri sector clocks a robust growth of 9.1%

BENGALURU
Karnataka's agricultural sector has registered a robust growth rate of 9.1% in 2025-26, bolstered by a conducive environment, including good monsoon. » PAGE 11

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 23

RSP landslide in Nepal polls; rapper Balen to be new PM

Sanjeev Satgainya
KATHMANDU

The Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), born just four years ago, has altered the syntax of Nepali politics as it heads towards an electoral landslide, with early trends putting it far ahead of Nepal's established parties that have ruled the country for decades.

According to Election Commission data, the RSP is leading in 110 constituencies out of 165, while Nepali Congress and the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) trailed at 10 and seven constituencies, respectively.

With the RSP's impending victory, rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah, popularly known as Balen, is set to become the nation's PM, and its youngest ever, at just 35 years.

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Cadets in action

A combined display of martial arts and other adventure activities by Officers Training Academy (OTA) cadets and Indian Army teams at OTA, Tamil Nadu, ahead of the Passing Out Parade on Saturday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Two engineers from State in top 100 AIR in Civil Services Exam

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two engineers from Karnataka have secured places in the top 100 All India Ranking (AIR) in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) exam results announced by the Civil Services Examination (CSE)-2025 on Friday.

Kiran Kamate, 29, from Hattaaravata village in Chikkodi taluk of Belagavi district, has secured the 53rd AIR and emerged as topper of the State.

Sandeep Badad, a resident of Gandhi Nagar, Yadgir, has secured 82nd AIR and emerged as second topper of the State.

Kiran Kamate

Mr. Kiran, who has completed his civil engineering degree from Gogate Engineering College, Belagavi, is currently working as an Assistant Engineer at the Public Works Department (PWD) in Bengaluru. He succeeded in the sixth attempt.

Sandeep Badad, son of a grocery store owner of Yadgir, completed his engineering degree at Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Technology (Dr. AIT) College, Bengaluru.

He worked in a software company for three years, left his job and trained for competitive exams in Delhi. He cleared CSE in his sixth attempt.

This year more than 25 candidates have managed to crack the CSE from the State.

The Nabi supremacy: what worked in Ranji — and will it in Tests?

The 29-year-old seam-and-swing bowler was irresistible in Jammu & Kashmir's maiden triumph in India's premier domestic cricket tournament. There is a growing clamour for him to be included in the national team. Are his methods robust enough to hold up at the highest level? And does he have the temperament to handle the pressure of top-flight competition?

N. Sudarshan

Fast bowling is viscerally raw. It is intense, unfiltered and powerful, and not only does it register in the onlookers' minds, but it also evokes deep emotion.

Yet, for every stump that cartwheels, there is the lovely outswinger that kisses the bat and nestles safely in the wicketkeeper's gloves. Fast bowling is bold, but also beautiful.

Top of the charts

No bowler in recent times has embodied these two aspects quite like Auqib Nabi. As Jammu & Kashmir clinched its maiden Ranji Trophy title last week, the 29-year-old from Baramulla finished with a chart-topping 60 wickets at an average of 12.56.

So penetrative was he that his strike-rate was an astounding 28.43. No bowler with 25 or more wickets had a number less than 30. Nabi also took a whopping seven five-wicket hauls, and four of those came in five innings across the quarterfinals, semifinals and final.

K. MURALI KUMAR

> Nabi lands the ball on the seam, and that is why he has got so many wickets in Indian conditions. And his movement is so late, and only two or three inches
>
> **P. KRISHNA KUMAR**
> J&K bowling coach

For all the statistical grandeur, there is a pleasing reticence to everything he does. His run-up is not fiery; his pace is not express; he doesn't stare down batters or indulge in complex vocabulary even while speaking about his expertise. Nabi is both arresting and simple.

But barely two years ago, Nabi was just another bowler in domestic cricket. He made his debut in 2019-20 under trailblazer Parvez Rasool, playing seven Ranji matches and claiming 24 wickets as J&K made the quarters for only the second time in history. However, in the three seasons after that, he accounted for just 22 scalps.

"I saw him first in the Buchi Babu Trophy nets in 2023-24," P. Krishna Kumar, J&K bowling coach, told *The Hindu*. "He had a firm wrist, which is very important for a fast-bowler. Only then can you give good back-spin and release the ball better because the palm is behind the ball.

"But he was bowling more inswingers. He wouldn't even bowl around the stick [stumps] to a left-hander. I asked him why. He said 'Sir, I don't have the confidence to bowl the outswinger'. So we practised, had some specific net sessions, and he learnt very quickly and improved drastically." In 2024-25, Nabi claimed 44 wickets as J&K reached the quarters again. But a maiden last-four appearance was thwarted by Kerala which secured a narrow one-run first-innings lead. The title-winning season, thus, seems like him wreaking vengeance.

"Nabi lands the ball on the seam, and that is why he has got so many wickets in Indian conditions," Krishna Kumar explained. "And his movement is so late, and only two or three inches.

"I've been coaching for 20 years and I've played for 15 years. But I've never seen many bowlers moving the ball so late," added the former Rajasthan cricketer, who played 70 First Class matches. This reflects in the manner of Nabi's dismissals. He bowls a suffocating line, landing the red cherry consistently in that mythical 'corridor of uncertainty' to perplex batters. Of his 60 dismissals, 42 were caught behind, bowled or lbw.

Not a speedster's paradise

The conditions under which Nabi has achieved this is equally noteworthy. Though India now boasts of a world-class pace attack at the international level, the domestic game is still not a speedster's paradise. In the all-time top-10 list of wicket-takers in a Ranji season, there are just three pacers – Jaydev Unadkat, Dodda Ganesh and now Nabi.

Unadkat, in fact, knows this all too well. The Saurashtra stalwart, with four Tests caps, holds the record for most wickets in a Ranji season for a speedster – 67 in 2019-20.

"It's not everyone's cup of tea," the left-arm pacer told *The Hindu*. "The weather is a big challenge. Ranji nowadays is not in the winters. It starts in October when it is 38 degrees in Rajkot. You have to last the whole season, play on different pitches, take wickets and win games. And in a country where to get an outright result, you always resort to turning tracks, being a fast-bowler is hard."

Unadkat is particularly impressed by Nabi's complete lack of stage fright. He is also delighted that Nabi has disproved, yet again, the theory that rampaging speed is a prerequisite.

"When I was in the reckoning for the Indian team, all I wanted to do was make the best batters play [the ball] all the time," Unadkat said. "If I could do that, I knew I had the skill-set to trouble any batter. I see that belief in Nabi. He wants to get the best batters out. Some bowlers get into a shell if they're bowling to bigger names. And if they're bowling to set batters, the lines could be defensive. But in him, I feel it is always attacking."

The recently concluded season was evidence enough. In an era where teams bat deep, 43 of Nabi's 60 wickets were of those in the top-seven. The Ranji final was the perfect microcosm – K.L. Rahul and R. Smaran caught behind; Karun Nair bowled; and Mayank Agarwal leg-before.

Unsurprisingly, there is heightened clamour for Nabi to be included in the Indian team, but before that, he must manage the burden of expectations in the upcoming Indian Premier League, after being bought for an impressive ₹8.4 crore by Delhi Capitals.

PTI

> Nabi wants to get the best batters out. Some bowlers get into a shell if they're bowling to bigger names. And to set batters, the lines could be defensive. But in him, I feel it is always attacking
>
> **JAYDEV UNADKAT**
> India cricketer

> Skill-wise, I believe Nabi has whatever it takes. The only thing that comes to my mind in order to excel in internationals is to be 100% all the time
>
> **UNADKAT**

"Once he plays IPL and is tested, there will be people saying 'he isn't good enough for the international level, it's just the domestic'," Unadkat said. "I hope he has the attitude where he doesn't care about all those things.

"I was actually heartbroken for Anshul Kamboj when he played in England [Manchester, 2025], and people started judging him after one game. I know how difficult it is to come out of it because it took me 12 years to get another chance [after Test debut].

"The only thing that comes to my mind in order to excel in internationals is to be 100% all the time. The level of consistency has to be a little higher than domestic. Skill-wise, I believe he [Nabi] has whatever it takes. So don't really need to push and do something different," the 34-year-old added.

Nabi, for now, is sleeping on a bed of roses. But Krishna Kumar is confident that he knows how to handle the thorns too. Nabi, after all, did not shy away from travelling all the way to Bengaluru from north Kashmir in 2019 to play league cricket and keep his competitive juices flowing.

Calm, sound, sorted

"He is very, very calm, and even if he doesn't get a wicket in a session, he says, 'Sir no problem, *main apni jagah pe bowling karta rahunga*' [I will keep bowling in my areas]. Sometimes, the batters will also bat well and score runs. So you have to be patient.

"But Nabi knows his strengths. In the [2025] Duleep Trophy, he got five wickets against East Zone, including four in four balls. In the second match against South Zone, he got only one wicket. But there was no change in his attitude. He has a very sound mind."

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	22	13,550	18
2	Jannik Sinner	24	10,400	19
3	Novak Djokovic	38	5,280	18
4	Alexander Zverev	28	4,555	22
5	Lorenzo Musetti	23	4,405	22
6	Alex de Minaur	27	4,235	22
7	Taylor Fritz	28	4,220	23
8	Ben Shelton	23	4,010	22
9	Felix Auger-Aliassime	25	3,950	26
10	Alexander Bublik	28	3,405	26
11	Daniil Medvedev	30	3,360	24
12	Jakub Mensik	20	2,650	23
13	Casper Ruud	27	2,625	22
14	Jack Draper	24	2,510	17
15	Flavio Cobolli	23	2,480	30

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 282 ▲ 4 spots

Aryan Shah
Rank 416 ▼ 7 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	27	10,675	20
2	Iga Swiatek	24	7,588	20
3	Elena Rybakina	26	7,253	22
4	Coco Gauff	21	6,803	20
5	Jessica Pegula	32	6,583	22
6	Amanda Anisimova	24	6,070	21
7	Jasmine Paolini	30	4,232	20
8	Mirra Andreeva	18	4,001	20
9	Elina Svitolina	31	3,845	16
10	Victoria Mboko	19	3,211	21
11	Ekaterina Alexandrova	31	2,918	26
12	Belinda Bencic	28	2,898	19
13	Karolina Muchova	29	2,668	16
14	Linda Noskova	21	2,421	23
15	Madison Keys	31	2,351	19

Top Indians ▶

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 393 ▲ 4 spots

Vaishnavi Adkar
Rank 468 ▼ 2 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	30	20	7	3	59	22	37	67
2	Man. City	29	18	6	5	59	27	32	60
3	Man. United	29	14	9	6	51	40	11	51
4	Aston Villa	29	15	6	8	39	34	5	51
5	Chelsea	29	13	9	7	53	34	19	48
6	Liverpool	29	14	6	9	48	39	9	48
7	Brentford	29	13	5	11	44	40	4	44
8	Everton	29	12	7	10	34	33	1	43
9	Bournemouth	29	9	13	7	44	46	-2	40
10	Fulham	29	12	4	13	40	43	-3	40
11	Sunderland	29	10	10	9	30	34	-4	40
12	Newcastle	29	11	6	12	42	43	-1	39
13	Crystal Palace	29	10	8	11	33	35	-2	38
14	Brighton	29	9	10	10	38	36	2	37
15	Leeds United	29	7	10	12	37	48	-11	31
16	Tottenham	29	7	8	14	39	46	-7	29
17	N. Forest	29	7	7	15	28	43	-15	28
18	West Ham	29	7	7	15	35	54	-19	28
19	Burnley	29	4	7	18	32	58	-26	19
20	Wolves	30	3	7	20	22	52	-30	16

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	27	22	1	4	64	21	43	67
2	AC Milan	27	16	9	2	43	20	23	57
3	Napoli	27	16	5	6	41	28	13	53
4	Roma	27	16	3	8	37	19	18	51
5	Como	27	13	9	5	44	20	24	48
6	Juventus	27	13	8	6	46	28	18	47
7	Atalanta	27	12	9	6	37	24	13	45
8	Bologna	27	11	6	10	36	32	4	39
9	Sassuolo	27	11	5	11	34	36	-2	38
10	Udinese	27	10	5	12	31	39	-8	35
11	Lazio	27	8	10	9	26	27	-1	34
12	Parma	27	8	9	10	20	32	-12	33
13	Cagliari	27	7	9	11	29	36	-7	30
14	Torino	27	8	6	13	27	47	-20	30
15	Genoa	27	6	9	12	32	39	-7	27
16	Fiorentina	27	5	9	13	30	42	-12	24
17	Cremonese	27	5	9	13	21	38	-17	24
18	Lecce	27	6	6	15	18	36	-18	24
19	Pisa	27	1	12	14	20	44	-24	15
20	Verona	27	2	9	16	20	48	-28	15

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	26	21	1	4	71	26	45	64
2	Real Madrid	26	19	3	4	54	22	32	60
3	Atletico Madrid	26	15	6	5	43	23	20	51
4	Villarreal	26	16	3	7	48	31	17	51
5	Real Betis	26	11	10	5	42	32	10	43
6	Celta Vigo	26	10	10	6	36	28	8	40
7	Espanyol	26	10	6	10	33	39	-6	36
8	Real Sociedad	26	9	8	9	38	38	0	35
9	Athletic Club	26	10	5	11	30	36	-6	35
10	Osasuna	26	9	6	11	30	30	0	33
11	Getafe	26	9	5	12	21	29	-8	32
12	Rayo Vallecano	26	7	9	10	26	32	-6	30
13	Sevilla	26	8	6	12	34	41	-7	30
14	Girona	26	7	9	10	27	42	-15	30
15	Valencia	26	7	8	11	27	39	-12	29
16	Alaves	26	7	6	13	23	34	-11	27
17	Elche	26	5	11	10	34	39	-5	26
18	Real Mallorca	26	6	6	14	29	42	-13	24
19	Levante	26	5	6	15	28	44	-16	21
20	Real Oviedo	26	3	8	15	16	43	-27	17

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	24	20	3	1	88	23	65	63
2	Dortmund	24	15	7	2	51	25	26	52
3	Hoffenheim	24	14	4	6	49	31	18	46
4	Stuttgart	24	14	4	6	48	32	16	46
5	RB Leipzig	24	13	5	6	46	33	13	44
6	Leverkusen	24	13	4	7	45	29	16	43
7	E. Frankfurt	24	9	7	8	48	49	-1	34
8	SC Freiburg	24	9	6	9	34	39	-5	33
9	FC Augsburg	24	9	4	11	30	41	-11	31
10	Union Berlin	24	7	7	10	29	38	-9	28
11	Hamburg	24	6	8	10	26	35	-9	26
12	M'gladbach	24	6	7	11	27	39	-12	25
13	Cologne	24	6	6	12	33	41	-8	24
14	Mainz	24	5	8	11	27	39	-12	23
15	St Pauli	24	6	5	13	23	40	-17	23
16	Werder	24	5	7	12	25	44	-19	22
17	Wolfsburg	24	5	5	14	33	53	-20	20
18	Heidenheim	24	3	5	16	22	53	-31	14

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	880	932
2	Harry Brook	857	898
3	Travis Head	853	884
4	Steve Smith	831	947
5	Kane Williamson	822	919
6	Kamindu Mendis	781	784
7	Temba Bavuma	775	806
8	Yashasvi Jaiswal	750	858
9	Saud Shakeel	734	787
10	Shubman Gill	730	807

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	879	908
2	Noman Ali	843	853
3	Mitchell Starc	838	852
4	Matt Henry	836	853
5	Pat Cummins	832	914
6	Marco Jansen	825	825
7	Scott Boland	820	820
8	Kagiso Rabada	807	902
9	Josh Hazlewood	775	864
10	Nathan Lyon	753	812

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Daryl Mitchell	845	845
2	Virat Kohli	795	909
3	Ibrahim Zadran	764	764
4	Rohit Sharma	757	882
5	Shubman Gill	723	847
6	Babar Azam	722	898
7	Harry Tector	708	767
8	Shai Hope	701	802
9	Charith Asalanka	672	725
10	K.L. Rahul	670	683

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	710	799
2	Jofra Archer	650	683
3	Keshav Maharaj	646	741
4	Bernard Scholtz	645	648
5	Adil Rashid	632	675
6	Josh Hazlewood	628	727
6	Maheesh Theekshana	628	686
8	Kuldeep Yadav	625	761
9	Abrar Ahmed	624	630
10	Mitchell Santner	617	657

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Abhishek Sharma	874	931
2	Sahibzada Farhan	848	848
3	Phil Salt	803	881
4	Ishan Kishan	783	783
5	Pathum Nissanka	766	796
6	Tilak Varma	749	845
7	Suryakumar Yadav	739	912
8	Dewald Brevis	737	724
9	Jos Buttler	716	794
10	Tim Seifert	712	740

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Varun Chakaravarthy	771	818
2	Rashid Khan	753	828
3	Abrar Ahmed	736	757
4	Corbin Bosch	730	731
5	Adil Rashid	719	747
6	Adam Zampa	682	746
7	Jasprit Bumrah	671	783
8	Matthew Forde	667	679
9	Mustafizur Rahman	665	718
10	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	663	757

₹2,000 cr. electric bus programme with World Bank aid announced

The government also plans to induct 4,000 electric buses into the fleets of various State-run transport corporations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As Karnataka's State-run road transport corporations continue their transition towards electric buses, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday announced a ₹2,000-crore electric bus programme with assistance from the World Bank while presenting the State Budget for 2026-27. He said that under the programme, 32 electric bus depots of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and 62 depots of other State Road Transport Corporations will be developed.

Under the Karnataka Electric Bus Programme (KEBP), the government plans to significantly expand the electric bus network across the State by developing new infrastructure and inducting thousands of buses into the public transport fleet. In addition, the government plans to induct 4,000 electric buses into the fleets of various State-run transport corporations as part of the initiative to promote sustainable and environmentally friendly public transport. The Chief Minister also announced that 1,000 additional diesel buses will be procured in 2026-27 to further strengthen public transport services.

Under the Karnataka Electric Bus Programme, the government plans to significantly expand the electric bus network across the State. FILE PHOTO

KARNATAKA BUDGET 2026-27

Arrears

Meanwhile, addressing the long-pending demands of employees of State-run road transport corporations regarding wage revisions and arrears, the Chief Minister blamed the previous BJP government for the delay.

He said the present government had decided to sympathetically consider the demand. "Our government has decided to pay the salary arrears for the period from January 1, 2021, to February 28, 2023. Further, salaries will be revised with effect from April 1, 2025. An amount of ₹1,271 crore will be provided for payment of these arrears," he added. Transport corporation employees across Karnataka have held several protests in recent months demanding the clearance of arrears and revision of wages.

Transport revenue rises

Meanwhile, the Transport Department has also recorded revenue growth, collecting ₹11,630 crore up to February 2026, an increase of 8.5% compared to the previous year. Mr. Siddaramaiah said the department has set a revenue target of ₹15,500 crore for 2026-27. "Vehicle sales have shown a strong recovery in the current year. Two-wheeler sales have increased by 13%, and car sales have increased by 4% up to January, compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. The revenue collection target from motor vehicles for the financial year 2026-27 is ₹15,500 crore," he said.

Aerospace common facility, flight training school to be set up

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An aerospace common facility centre will be established in the KIADB Aerospace Park in Bengaluru with a total project cost of ₹30 crore.

In the 2026-27 Budget, it was announced that an amount of ₹10 crore has been allocated in the current financial year for this purpose.

To promote the growth of aerospace industries in Mysuru, an aerospace park will also be developed adjacent to the Mysuru airport by KIADB.

A flight training school and the manufacturing and assembly of aircraft units, under a PPP model, will also be established on the premises of Vijayapura and Shivamogga airports, respectively.

Mr. Siddaramaiah also announced that ₹200 crore has been earmarked in the current year for the development of seven domestic airports in the State.

He said ₹1,593 crore in grants for the development of the seven airports has been disbursed so far. He also said that the second airport for Bengaluru will be developed, for which a feasibility report will be prepared after obtaining technical advice from the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

"To decongest Kempegowda International Airport, which has emerged as the country's third largest airport, a second airport will be developed in Bengaluru for which a feasibility report will be prepared after obtaining technical advice from the AAI," the Chief Minister said.

A flight training school and the manufacturing and assembly of aircraft units, under a PPP model, will also be established on the premises of Vijayapura and Shivamogga airports. FILE PHOTO

Trade bodies said the initiatives announced in the Budget demonstrated a positive approach to supporting MSMEs. FILE PHOTO

'Budget reflects State's continued focus on diverse growth'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

The Budget presented by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reflected the State government's continued commitment towards economic growth, industrial development, technology advancement, and balanced regional development across Karnataka, said trade bodies.

Uma Reddy, president, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Industries (FKCCI), said the initiatives announced in the Budget demonstrated a positive approach to strengthening industry confidence, supporting MSMEs, promoting emerging technologies, and encouraging investments across the State.

FKCCI particularly welcomed several important initiatives aimed at strengthening the industrial ecosystem and creating new opportunities for investment, innovation, and employment.

"The enhanced focus on MSME development is a positive step, as improved access to technology, credit, and infrastructure will help small industries grow and generate employment," added Ms. Reddy.

In his reaction B.R. Ganesh Rao, president, Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA), observed that the Budget contained several encouraging measures for industry, particularly in infrastructure creation, skill development and industrial expansion beyond Bengaluru, though greater targeted support for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) would further strengthen the State's industrial ecosystem.

He noted that Karnataka continued to maintain strong economic momentum with a GSDP growth of 8.1%, higher than the national growth rate, and remained a leading destination for global investment, accounting for nearly 26.7% of India's FDI inflows during 2025-26.

"This demonstrates the State's resilience and its growing importance as a hub for advanced manufacturing, technology, start-ups and innovation-driven industries," Mr. Rao added.

Acknowledging the State's emphasis on industrial growth, Mr. Rao said this would boost Karnataka's strategy to promote investments in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities under the Beyond Bengaluru scheme envisioned under the Industrial Policy 2025-30. "Decentralised industrial development can help reduce regional disparities while creating large-scale employment opportunities and new markets for MSEs across Karnataka." Mr. Rao commented.

K. Ravi, senior vice president, BCIC and chairman, International Business Committee, appreciated the government's commitment to strengthening the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector through targeted financial incentives, skill development programs, and ease of doing business reforms. "These measures are expected to boost manufacturing capabilities and create significant employment opportunities across the state," Mr. Ravi added.

THULASI KAKKAT

We shocked quite a few people at LA. They didn't expect that from Indian athletics

From humble beginnings to making the world take notice in the 1980s, M.D. Valsamma had a storied career as a top athlete. She speaks in this interview about the hurdles moment that changed her life, her significant role in the revolution of women's athletics, why Kerala is not as dominant as it once was, and what could make a difference at the grassroots level

INTERVIEW

M.D. Valsamma

P.K. Ajith Kumar

She was Kerala's golden girl before *the* golden girl came along. M.D. Valsamma's gold in the 400m hurdles at the 1982 Asian Games in New Delhi inspired several young girls in Kerala to take up athletics. P.T. Usha was not just her Indian teammate – they qualified for the 4x400m relay at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics – she was also her junior at Mercy College (Palakkad), where the Kerala Government started its sports hostel, paving the way for a revolution in women's athletics in the State. Excerpts from a rare interview Valsamma gave *The Hindu* at Kochi:

For a State that has produced a large percent of India's female track-and-field athletes, Kerala cannot boast of too many big stars at the moment.

It is almost shocking that no female athlete from Kerala has qualified for the Olympics since 2016. For a State that has given India so many great athletes from my time onwards – Usha, Mercy Kuttan, Sreekumari Amma and I are all products of the sports hostel at Mercy College – it is indeed a sorry state of affairs. Until recently, we had athletes like Anju Bobby George and Tintu Luka.

It indeed pains me to see the decline in women's athletics in Kerala. Things are better in men's athletics, but the fact is that Kerala isn't the force that it used to be in Indian athletics. We shouldn't forget that most of our girls in athletics come from financially weak families and they need jobs, which are few these days.

Our athletes should be funded properly and there should be enough physical education teachers at our schools. Even those schools in Kerala which used to focus on athletics aren't doing it now.

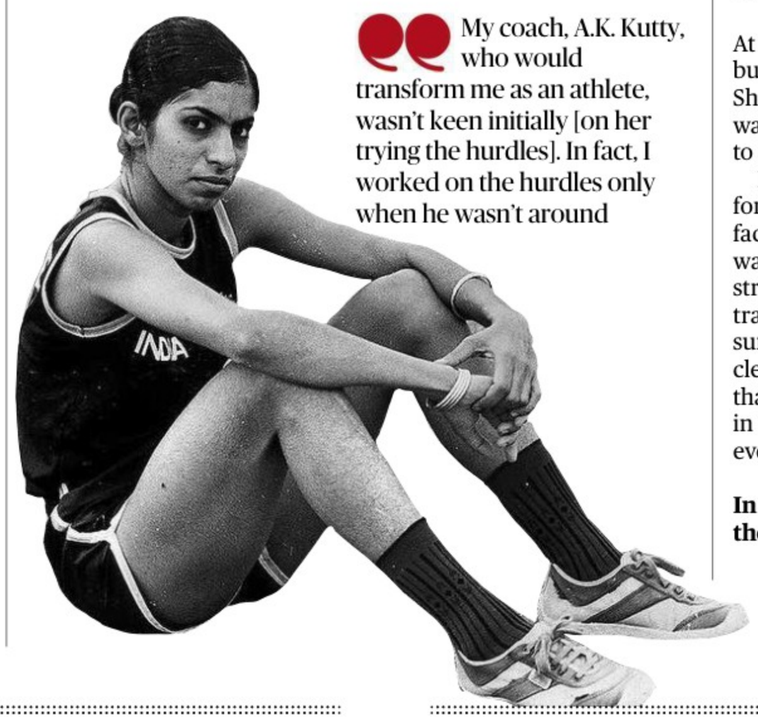
> I will never forget the cheer from the crowd of 80,000 people at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. Later, I felt gratified to learn that my performance inspired so many girls to take up athletics

And other States are doing better. Odisha, for instance.

Yes. People from other States have come to Kerala and studied how we did it. And they are doing what we used to do.

You were speaking of how Kerala got it right early on, by starting those sports hostels all those decades ago. It is remarkable that Usha, Mercy, Sreekumari and you were all at Mercy College at the same time.

I joined the college because of the physical education teacher at Alakode NSS School in Kannur. N.J. Paul convinced my parents that I had potential as an athlete. He came to our home and told them that the Kerala Government was starting a sports hostel. So my brother took me to Thrissur for the trials. I was initially on the wait-list, but later on I was able to join the first batch at Mercy College. Usha joined us a year later.



> My coach, A.K. Kutty, who would transform me as an athlete, wasn't keen initially [on her trying the hurdles]. In fact, I worked on the hurdles only when he wasn't around

My family migrated from central Travancore to Malabar in 1952. We are originally from Pala. Ours was a very famous family there, called Manathur. When the family came to Malabar, I wasn't born. The migrants made a living from farming, but had to fight against wild animals and diseases like malaria. There were 10 of us siblings, and I was the youngest. Some of them were interested in athletics – my sisters Aleykutty and Anna and brother Antony. And our school was four kilometres away and we would walk. That was actually my first training as an athlete.

Your breakthrough came at the inter-State meet in 1981 at Bengaluru, where you won five gold medals.

Yes, in 400m, 100m hurdles, 400m hurdles and the two relays.

How did you happen to focus on 400m hurdles, which was a relatively new event at the time?

At Mercy College, I was focusing on long jump, but I saw this girl, called Prema, doing hurdles. She was my batch-mate. Watching her, I also wanted to try it. After a couple of days, I started to do it pretty well.

But my coach, A.K. Kutty, who would transform me as an athlete, wasn't keen initially. In fact, I worked on the hurdles only when he wasn't around; he wanted to focus only on my strong events. Then I asked him whether I could train in it since I loved it so much. He was not sure since I wasn't tall. When he saw that I was clearing the hurdles smoothly, and doing better than Prema, he agreed. Thus I began to compete in 100m hurdles; the 400m version wasn't an event in India at the time.

In 1982, you won the 400m hurdles gold at the Asian Games in New Delhi.

My coach told me that there was this new event, 400m hurdles, and since I used to do the 400m flat, I should try it. And that was a turning point in my career. I began to focus on 400m hurdles, with India hosting the Asian Games. At the national camp in Patiala, I concentrated on that event as we knew that we had the chance to win India a gold.

Since the 400m hurdles was going to be held at 1 p.m., I started practising at that time every afternoon. So I didn't have lunch for the whole year; I had to reach the ground at 12 o'clock and by the time I finished, at around 3 p.m., the canteen would have closed. So I would have juice, and come back for the training in the evening.

We reached Delhi 15 days before the event and practised at the same time in the afternoon. The pressure was huge, as was the excitement. It was the first time I was running in such a big stadium. I qualified for the finals comfortably. Those days, the lane was decided by lots and I got the last one, though I had clocked the fastest time among all the runners going into the final.

That was a disadvantage, as I wasn't able to see what was happening on the other seven tracks until the eighth hurdle. I saw my rivals, from China and Japan, were two steps ahead of me. When I reached the 10th – last – hurdle, I felt like my legs were getting heavy. When I reached the 10th hurdle, they were still a step ahead, but my legs somehow drew some strength and I dashed to the finish. And I will never forget the cheer from the crowd of 80,000 people at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. Later on, I felt gratified to learn that my performance inspired so many girls to take up athletics.

Two years later, you made history at the Los Angeles Olympics in the women's 4x400m relay, alongside Usha, Shiny Wilson and Vandana Rao.

Reaching the final was another unforgettable experience for me. We shocked quite a few people. They hadn't expected something like that from Indian athletics. Watching Daley Thompson is another memory I cherish from Los Angeles. He was my favourite athlete and I would watch him do his different events in decathlon. I also remember watching Carl Lewis and Sebastian Coe.

GAME THEORY

Serie A: goals vs. expected goals

Lautaro Martinez heads Serie A's goal-scoring chart so far this season, with the Inter centre-forward outperforming his expected goals (xG) — a trend evident in three of the five leading scorers in Italy's premier division. A look at the top bagsmen in Serie A in 2025-26 and the margin between their tallies and the xG they have generated (xGDiff):

Player	Club	Games	Goals	xG	xGDiff
Lautaro Martinez	Inter	25	14	13.36	0.64
Nico Paz	Como	26	9	7.48	1.52
Rafael Leao	AC Milan	20	9	7.78	1.22
Rasmus Hojlund	Napoli	23	9	9.57	-0.57
Tasos Douvikas	Como	27	9	9.59	-0.59
Christian Pulisic	AC Milan	20	8	8.13	-0.13
Hakan Calhanoglu	Inter	18	8	5.34	2.66
Keinan Davis	Udinese	23	8	8.39	-0.39
Kenan Yildiz	Juventus	26	8	8.08	-0.08

Player	Club	Games	Goals	xG	xGDiff
Moise Kean	Fiorentina	24	8	15.15	-7.15
Domenico Berardi	Sassuolo	17	7	5.76	1.24
Gift Orban	Verona	22	7	9.95	-2.95
Marcus Thuram	Inter	21	7	8.93	-1.93
Mateo Pellegrino	Parma	27	7	8.7	-1.7
Nikola Krstovic	Atalanta	23	7	9.79	-2.79
Riccardo Orsolini	Bologna	25	7	7	0
Santiago Castro	Bologna	24	7	6.47	0.53

SOURCE: WHOSCORED.COM

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Hi-yah!

Goal celebrations come in all shapes and sizes, from the painstaking choreography of the look-at-me ego to the manic eruption of the passion merchant.

Kicking the corner flag is that curious 'celly' that sits at both ends — given that some players have used it as a signature move, there is a strong element of premeditation, but equally it has the off-the-cuff insanity that lends itself to last-minute winners.

Nobody asked Melbourne Victory's Clarismario Santos Rodrigues — the subject of this photograph — just why he chose to visit violence on a defenceless object in an A-League game in Australia last week, but we have testimony from at least one exponent of the celebration. Crystal Palace's Jean-Philippe Mateta is perhaps its most prolific purveyor currently. Why does he do it? Blame it on Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Mateta's hero. "I saw him kick a corner flag, maybe it's because of him?"

When it comes to corner-flag 'cellys', kicking it into oblivion isn't the only option. If you have enough swagger, you lean on it with practised nonchalance, a la Thierry Henry.

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BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No.: BDA/E.E.(E)/1229/2025-26 Date: 06.03.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTICE

Short-Term Tender for electricity related works is invited by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT226). Tender Schedule is as below.

Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **07.03.2026 (2)** Last date and time for submission of Tender: **13.03.2026, 17.00 Hrs. (3)** Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **16.03.2026 at 11.00 Hrs. (4)** Date of opening Financial Bid of Tender: **Refer e-proc.** Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Electrical Division of BDA during office hours.

Note: For any reason if there is delay in uploading the Tender Documents in e-portal, the revised/modified Tender Schedule will only be published in e-portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Electrical), Electrical Division, BDA, Bengaluru.

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Kagitha Nagar, Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy Dist, Tamil Nadu.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Nature of Work	Date of publishing Tender document in TNPL/NIC website	Due date
252623 004331	Transportation of Tissue Paper Reels from TNPL Unit - II at Mondipatti to throughout India through Containers (Closed Body) for the Period of One Year.	16.03.2026	30.03.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/1605/Tender/2026 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

City Municipal Council, Ranebennur

No/CMC/PWD/AMRUT 2.0/CR-13/2025-26 DATED: 03-03-2026

SHORT TERM RE- TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal)

Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Ordinance 1999-2000 Act 2000 as per Standard Tender Document Rules under Restricted under JAL-HI AMRUT in Total **Rs.75.00 lakhs** Indent No. **DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 51983 Call-3 01** work The undersigned invites tender through e-procurement portal from qualified contractors registered with Karnataka Public Works Department for the works in Two Cover format. In Annexure KW-3 A Eligible Contractors E-Procurement Website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in can participate in the tender and publication details on the website of the municipal office **http//www.ranebennurcity.mrc.gov.in** Available in For more details information can be obtained from Municipal Council office hours and e-Procurement Assistant Phone No.: +91-46010000 +91-8068948777.

Note : (1) In case of any change in the estimated amount, tendered amount mentioned before the above work, the tendered amount mentioned in the tender document will be final. (2) Any change in the following dates shall be noted in the e-procurement portal and no announcements shall be issued. Last Date & Time for Enquire for Tender **11-03-2026** Time : 15.30 Last date and time for submission of tender : **11-03-2026** Time : 17.30 Techninical Bid Tender Opening Date & Time : **13-03-2026** Time : 11.30 Financial Bid Tender Opening Date & Timeor after approval by competent authority : **16-03-2026** Time : 11.30

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Ranebennur

DIPR/Haveri/KSMCA/779/2025-26

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(A Government of Karnataka under taking)

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e-mail: eehrbhlcgorur@yahoo.in PHONE NO.08172-225435

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION Tender Notification No. 09/2025-26 Dated: 02.03.2026 (Two covers under Package System)

On behalf of the Managing Director Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer CNNL, No.1 HRBHLC Division, Gorur invites tenders on ITEM RATE basis from the contractors for 02 no of works for general category contractors. The two cover tender procedure as per rule – 28 of KPPP Act be followed. The tenderers are required to submit two separate sealed covers, Ist Cover (Technical Bid) containing EMD with technical details of their capability to undertake the tender (as detailed in instructions to tenders Clause – I to XIII) and another containing Financial bid. The financial bid will be opened only if the tenderers are found to be qualified to execute the tendered work. The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified. The approximate amount put to tender i.e minmum Rs.419.20 lakhs and maximum Rs.419.27 lakhs .Stipulated period of completion: 06 months. Category of contractor eligible: (For PWD Class-II) the contractors can request for e-tendering documents from 03.03.2026 in the web site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/Govt.Portal link e-tender document on payment (non-refundable) for work towards the transaction fee (As per KPPP-portal). While applying the contactors can pay the transaction fee in the KPPP portal using payment modes - I Credit card/Direct Debit/National electronic fund transfer (NEFT)/over the counter (OTC) up to 11.03.2026 up to 13:30th hour. Cover-I (Technical Bid) will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, HRBHLC Division, Gorur on 12.03.2026, Cover-II (Financial Bid) of qualified bidders will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, HRBHLC Division, Gorur after approval of Technical bid.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL, No.1 HRBHLC Division, Gorur

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/1147/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

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Metro Railway, Kolkata

Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Project Metro Rly. Kolkata for & on behalf of the President of India invites e-Tenders against Open Tender due to open on 27.03.2026 at 15:00 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of Work :** Telecommunication works in connection with the rehabilitation and redevelopment of Kavi Subhash and Kalighat Metro Railway Stations; **Tender Value :** ₹ 85,18,167.14; **Earnest Money :** ₹ 1,70,400.00; **Completion Period :** 12 Months; The tender can be viewed at Web site **https://www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-Tendering. All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tender.

Tender Notice No.:S&T/Work_13-2026

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

NOTICE OF INVITING TENDER

DRM (S&T)/ North Western Railway /Jaipur, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite E-Tenders from registered tenderer/bidders for the following work **E-Tender Notice No. SNT-JP-37-2025-26 Date: 03.03.2026 1.Name of work with its location :** Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Electronic Interlocking (EI) System of M/S Kyosan Make at 09 Stations (COD, BIYA, SPAK, LLST, MDWI, BMWS, KHUT, NRI & KWP) for One Year of Jaipur Division. **2. Approx. Cost of work (Rs.)** : Rs. 1,32,15,906.72/- **3. Bid Security (Rs.)** : Rs. 2,16,100/- **4. Date & Time for submission up to on www.ireps.gov.in** : 27.03.2026, Up to 15.00 hrs. **5. Website Particulars & Notice board location** : www.ireps.gov.in, and DRM office/NWR/ Jaipur.

321-DR/26

Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

AXIS BANK PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION

Public Notice for – E-Auction of pledged assets being Gold Ornaments

The Borrowers, in specific and the public in general are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledge in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted by the Axis Bank at the below mentioned Branch.

The below mentioned Borrowers has availed the credit facility from the **Axis Bank Limited** against the pledge of gold ornaments ("Gold Loan Facility") in favour of the Bank towards the security. The Demand notices were issued to the Borrowers/Guarantors calling up the Borrowers/Guarantors to pay their outstanding amount towards the Gold loan facility availed. As the Borrowers/Guarantors have failed to repay the outstanding loan amount, the bank is constrained to invoke the pledge and proposed to conduct an e-auction sale of pledged gold ornaments more particularly described in schedule of property hereunder on **17.03.2026 at 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM on "As In Where Is", "As Is What Is", "Whatever There Is" and "No Recourse Basis".**

Details of Borrowers and outstanding amount

Branch Name	Loan A/C No.	Customer Name	Amount Outstanding	Date of Demand Notice	Gross Weight	Net Weight
Bommasandra [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX0670	Pradeep Kumar M	41638.92	09-Feb-26	7.700	6.600
Chamarajpet [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX2464	B Kannan	135168	27-Oct-25	31.900	31.500
Channapatna [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX4285	Syed Saleem Ahmed	495000	12-Feb-26	62.600	62.200
Channapatna [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX6627	Arsalan Khan	405071.51	09-Feb-26	58.300	56.100
Chintamani [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX4948	Shyamala V	228690	12-Feb-26	33.700	32.100
Devanahalli [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX2055	Durga Shivaji Bhosale	1320445.13	23-Jan-26	183.500	180.600
Dod Ballapur [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX2214	Ummar Sab	709373.1	10-Jan-26	107.000	103.300
Dod Ballapur [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX7462	Chandan K	225136	23-Jan-26	29.900	29.600
Dod Ballapur [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX5790	Naresh T K	841295.58	09-Feb-26	146.300	126.400
Electronic City [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX8713	Thilak V	136090.52	10-Jan-26	34.700	26.000
Hegdenagar [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX6869	N Ramkrishna Dora	60157	09-Feb-26	19.200	12.100
Hoskote[Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX2385	Darshan B G	1451504	16-Nov-25	223.000	222.200
Hoskote [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX6763	Asif Ulla Khan	500244	09-Feb-26	76.900	67.700
Hoskote [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX2529	K Subramanyam	237847.71	09-Feb-26	29.700	28.700
Hoskote [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX1269	Ravindra Kumar V	105582	12-Dec-25	42.000	40.000
Indiranagar [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX9698	Channappa K S	3044782.21	19-Dec-25	618.800	613.200
ITI Layout [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX5826	Sushma H	82200	16-Nov-25	18.100	13.100
J P Nagar [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX2287	Raghunatharaddi Kalawad	134230	09-Feb-26	24.900	24.200
Kasthuri Nagar [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX5422	Yemme Bharathi	1557855	23-Jan-26	315.300	240.000
Kasthuri Nagar [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX7321	Yemme Bharathi	1515723.67	23-Jan-26	299.000	234.000
Kasthuri Nagar [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX6753	Sreenivas Reddy Yemme	922880.75	23-Jan-26	231.500	172.000
Kasthuri Nagar [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX3471	Yemme Bharathi	941636.75	27-Jan-26	202.500	162.000
Kolar [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX5005	Asif Ahmed	1331704.81	09-Feb-26	246.800	240.100
Kolar [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX0525	Shafeeq Parveez	531417.68	10-Jan-26	80.200	78.400
Kolar [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX3800	M Shabareesha	565006	27-Jan-26	99.900	97.100
Koramangala [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX5229	Eshwarareddy M N	72252	23-Jan-26	11.420	10.720
Kunigal C6231 [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX3484	Girisha K N	48990.54	10-Jan-26	6.000	5.800
Malleswaram [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX4838	Divakara Shetty H	3250794	09-Feb-26	467.400	387.400
Malleswaram [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX6928	C K Ramesh	1946381	09-Feb-26	289.900	231.900
Malur [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX7037	Vidhya Srirangan	1455832.55	23-Jan-26	241.600	222.600
Malur [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX5041	B Prajwal	89045	09-Feb-26	19.100	17.500
Marathahalli [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX1707	Ravi N	1736963.8	09-Feb-26	210.000	201.700
Nelamangala [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX0779	Chethan R	678652.55	09-Feb-26	114.300	104.300
Nelamangala [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX8539	Chethan R	322470.17	09-Feb-26	55.180	48.180
Peenya [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX7633	A Narayanaswamy .	466516	09-Feb-26	78.800	78.300
Peenya [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX1600	Lakshmi H P	307460	10-Jan-26	54.700	50.200
Peenya [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX9041	A Narayanaswamy .	154790.08	09-Feb-26	28.100	26.100
Prashanth Nagar [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX8225	P Veena	314183.97	23-Jan-26	50.830	45.530
Prashanth Nagar [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX3096	Gouramm A	196138	09-Feb-26	32.900	32.400
R T Nagar [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX4867	Beeresha B	1267112	23-Jan-26	247.400	229.000
Ramanagara [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX8631	Padmashree J	257714.35	27-Jan-26	38.380	35.180
Robertsonpet [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX3214	Pavithra R	171079	12-Feb-26	26.100	25.500
Robertsonpet [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX5648	Azhar Baig	77722	09-Feb-26	9.400	9.400
Sanjay Nagar [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX6039	Kumar Nallur	2030108.06	27-Jan-26	445.600	406.100
Sarjapur Road [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX4881	Manisha Dubey	1147766.55	06-Nov-25	181.300	179.400
Sarjapur Road [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX7407	Gandham Naveena	1017721	09-Feb-26	161.500	158.100
Sarjapur Road [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX4891	Lokesh C S	104151.08	09-Feb-26	20.900	20.100
Tiptur [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX8088	Devendra Kumar T	367740.8	09-Feb-26	48.600	48.000
Vidyaranyapura [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX4964	Mahesh Melseeme Thippeswamy	1524367	23-Jan-26	302.600	287.700
Whitefield Main [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX5789	Kakanuri Pratap Reddy	624946	09-Feb-26	73.100	71.800
Yelahanka [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX4434	Venkatesh Vutukur	2026181	09-Feb-26	254.600	235.800

Axis Bank Ltd. has the authority to remove account/change the auction date without any prior notice. Auction will be held online https://gold.samil.in on 17.03.2026 between 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM.

For detailed Terms and conditions, please log into given website https://gold.samil.in (website of online vendor)

Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Axis Bank LTD.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owner **M/s. PARAAG CONSTRUCTIONS AND DEVELOPERS,** a registered partnership firm having its registered office at Municipal No.5/1, Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road (earlier known as Sampangi Tank Road), Ward No.77, Sampangiramnagar, Bangalore, represented by its partner **Mr. Sanith V. Jannu.**

All persons/ firms/ companies/ banks/ financial institutions having or claiming any right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described, are called upon to intimate the same in writing to the undersigned at the below given address along with all the documents relating to such claim within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim of any party shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes and shall not be entertained hereafter and we shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and our client will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **3 BHK** Residential Apartment bearing **No.3.09 (referred by BBMP as TF 309, Khata No. 2/28 and PID No.77-5-2/28),** situated on the **Third Floor**, having a super built-up area of **259.46 Sq.Mtrs.** (equivalent to **2792.90 Sq.ft)** along with proportionate shares in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases etc. together with an undivided share of **102.65 Sq.Mtrs.** (equivalent to **1105 Sq.ft**) in the project known as **PARAAG CENTURY RENATA** constructed on BBMP Khata No.2, PID No.77-5-2, Ward No.77, Sampangiramnagar, Rajaram Mohan Roy Road, Bangalore-560027 totally admeasuring 49,592 Sq.Ft., and the project is bounded on the:

East by : Property bearing No. 2/1A Sampangi Tank Road;
West by : Sampangi Tank Road and party by private property;
North by : Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road;
South by : Partly by property No. 2/A and partly by private property.

Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038
Place: Bengaluru Date: 07.03.2026

VIJAYANAGARA SRI KRISHNADEVARAYA UNIVERSITY, BALLARI

Jnanasagara Campus, Vinayakanagara , Cantonment, Ballari-583105,

NO. VSKUB/ENGG/S.T/Tender-66&67/D&P / 2025-26/ 1191/1193 Date:.05.03.2026

Short Term Tender Notification (Through e-procurement only)

Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University invites Short-term tenders from eligible tenderers for Sl.No:01) Supply of 145 Desktop Computer to Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Jnanasagara Campus, Ballari: Rs.1,65,39,715.00 (Excluding GST). and Sl.No:02) Providing and Laying of Pavers & Construction of Clothes Washing Platforms to Bhadra Boys Hostel , Tunga Girls Hostel, Vedvati Girls Hostel, Hagari Boys Hostel & Navli Girls Hostel in the Premises of Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Jnana Sagara Campus, Ballari (Package work) : Rs.1,07,65,500,00 (Excluding GST). The detail notification regarding the subject to enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by login on the website kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The other details can be collected from the undersigned upto 20-03-2026 , 05.00 PM.

Sd/- Registrar, Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University Ballari-583105.

DIPR/Ballari/1094/KSMCA/2025-26

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)

Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangalore - 575 004

Ph: 0824-2885796 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: MESCOM/SEE(Proj)/EE(APR)/2025-26/4060 Date: 06.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP Mode Only)

MESCOM Invites tenders for "Providing electrical infrastructure to regularized IP sets" on Partial turnkey basis in Shivamogga Zone of MESCOM jurisdiction vide Bid enquiry nos. **MESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT405** to **421.**

The interested eligible bidders may log on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **09.03.2026**

Sd/-,
Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Projects)

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1712/25-26 dt:06.03.2026

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

CAUVERY NIRAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA

(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CNNL, YAGACHI PROJECT DIVISION, BELUR, HASSAN DISTRICT

PHONE: 08177-222294(OFF) FAX : 08177-222293

Short term Tender Notification No.12/2025-26, Dated: 03-03-2026 (Through KPPportal only)

The Executive Engineer, CNNL., Yagachi Project Division, Belur-573115 Hassan Dist., invited Short termTender Notification through e- procurement only on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from the eligible contractors of PWDof any State/Central Government/Public Sector organization in Two cover system on the basis of KW-4conditions. 1)MinimumAmount Put to tender: Rs. 210.80 Lakhs (Excluding GST), 2)MaximumAmount Put to tender: Rs. 421.27 Lakhs (Excluding GST), 3) MinimumEMD amount Rs.3.16Lakhs.4) Maximum EMD amount Rs.6.32Lakhs. 5) Number of Works: 06 (Six) 6) The contractor can have access e-tender documents from Date: -06-03-2026 from 4.00 PM to Date: -13-03-2026 at 4.00 pm. through website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on payment (Non Refundable) of transaction fees as fixed by e –portal, 7) Pre Bid Meeting Date:10-03-2026 8)Opening of Technical bid on Date:- 16-03-2026 at 11.00 am onwards. (if possible) 9)Opening of Financial bid on Date: -After the Approval of Technical Bid. 10)Time limit:11 months (Including monsoon) 11) Eligiblity of Contractor:PWD Class-II &above. For further information etc., contact in the undersigned office during working hours or through website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in(Department).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL, Yagachi Project Division, Belur.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/1149/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

University Of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore

NAAC A' Accredited, Estate Office, Naik Bhavan, GKVK, Bengaluru-560 065.

No. EO/SPO/kppp/21/2025-26 Dated: 05-03-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Kpp Portal only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru has invited Short Term Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KG-2, from the reputed firms for the procurement of Agricultural Equipment's/Implements.

The Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. (1)** Last date and time for uploading the tender on **12.03.2026 upto 4:00 p.m. (2)** The Technical Bid will be opened on **14.03.2026 at 10:30 a.m. (3)** The Financial Bid will be opened on **16.03.2026 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Tender Committee Room of Estate Office. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours and also refer UAS **website: www.usabangalore.edu.in. Help Desk-09240214000/ 09240214001, support@eprochelpdesk. com.** The University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/-
ESTATE OFFICER

DIPR/CP/RO6049/AAPL/2025-26

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SOUTH BENGALURU
J P NAGAR

EVERYONE KNOWS
THE FINAL ANSWER IS
UP TO HER

SHE SETS THE VIBE

WOW FITNESS
SAT, 07 MAR | 08:00 AM

ALL WOMEN THAR RALLY
SUN, 08 MAR | 06:00 AM

ALL WOMEN MARKETPLACE
FRI – SUN | 11:00 AM ONWARDS

SHWETAMBARI SHETTY PRESENTS DANCE FITNESS
SUN, 08 MAR | 08:00 AM

SANGEETHA RAVINDRANATH
LIVE IN CONCERT
SUN, 08 MAR | 07:00 PM

SCAN FOR DETAILS

Forum South Bengaluru, Konanakunte Cross Metro Station, Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru 560062. +91 80 5004 4944 forummalls.in
Ride to the mall comfortably - use the Green Line to Konanakunte Cross Metro Station

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.CGM(Tech)/DGM(APCC&PROC)/EE-2/AEE/2024-25/4419-441 Dt:04.03.2026

BRIEF SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal only)

KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works against following Enquiry Number:

Enquiry No. / Name of the work

KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3421

" Combined package for:

(1) Construction of 220kV Terminal Bay for Setting up Battery Energy Storage System in **220/110/11kV sub-station Aheri** in Sindagi Taluk, Vijayapur District.

(2) Construction of 1 No. of 220KV terminal bay at existing **400/220KV Guttur** Receiving station for setting up of Battery Energy Storage System in Harihara Taluk, Davangere District.

(3) Construction of 220KV Bay for Battery Energy Storage System at **220/66/11KV Madhuvanahalli sub-station,** Kollegala Taluk, Chamarajanagara District.

(4) Construction of 220KV terminal bay for setting up of Battery Energy Storage System at existing **220KV Humnabad sub-station** in Humnabad Taluk, Bidar District.

(5) Construction of 220KV terminal bay for setting up of Battery Energy Storage System at existing **220KV Shahapur sub-station** in Shahapur Taluk, Yadgir District.

(6) Construction of 220KV terminal bay for setting up of Battery Energy Storage System at existing **220KV Mallat sub-station** in Manvi Taluk, Raichur District."

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 11.03.2026**. Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **26.03.2026 up to 15:00 hrs**. **Any extension of due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the KPP Portal**. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Tech.), KPTCL, Corporate Office, 11th Floor, Indhana Bhavan, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru - 09.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE (HSFC),
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
DEVANAHALLI, KARNATAKA-562164, PH: 080-29916308

e-Tender Notice No.: HSFC/CMG/2(17)/PEB/170/2025-26 Date: 06.03.2026

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

On behalf of the President of India, online EPC· tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work.

Title of work	**Construction of Stores Block at HSFC, Devanahalli (Design, Supply, Fabrication, Erection & Commissioning) of Pre-Engineered Steel Building including Associated Civil, PH, Electrical & Allied Works (EPC-Mode-1)**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 194.00 Lakhs**
Period of Completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**(05) Five months**
Period during which the tender documents can be requested	From: **11:00 Hrs on 07.03.2026 to 23:30 Hrs on 23.03.2026**
Period during which the tender documents can be downloaded	From: **11:10 Hrs on 07.03.2026 to 23:59 Hrs on 23.03.2026**
Bid clarifications	From: **11.30 Hrs on 07.03.2026 to 10:30 Hrs on 25.03.2026**
Reply to Bid clarification	**Up to 17:00 Hrs on 27.03.2026**
Last date & time for receipt of tenders	**Up to 10:30 Hrs on 30.03.2026**
Due date & time of opening of tenders (Technical Bid)	**11:00 Hrs on 30.03.2026**
Earnest Money Deposit EMD	**Rs. 3,88,000/-**

For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer Detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) from website: **www.isro.gov.in** for further details and Purchase of tender documents visit **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Head CMD, CMG, HSFC.

AYUSH DEPARTMENT

Dhanvanthri Road, Bangalore-560 009.
Phone: 080-22876553, Fax: 080-22340139,
e-mail: directorayush.eproc@gmail.com

No: AYUSH/3/PROC/2025-26 Date: 06-03-2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal Only)

The e-tender in Two Document System invited from the Tender inviting Authority and Accounts Officer, Department of AYUSH, Bengaluru for the supply of Medical books under SCSP/TSP Scheme to Directorate of AYUSH subordinate Institutions as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999-2000 Rules there under.

Calendar of Events

1.	The Tender document will be available from KPP Portal	**06.03.2026 at 5:30 p.m.**
2.	Last date for uploading tender documents through KPP Portal	**16.03.2026 at 4:00 p.m.**
3.	Date of opening of Technical Bid	**17.03.2026 at 4:30 p.m.**
4.	Date of opening of Financial Bid	**18.03.2026 at 5:00 p.m.**

For further details may be viewed at below
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Accounts Officer/Chairman
(Tender Inviting Authority)
Directorate of AYUSH, Dhanvanthri Road, Bengaluru-09.

DIPR/CP/RO6048/AAPL/2025-26

KARNATAKA CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED

KMF Complex, Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bengaluru-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 fax: 080-25536105 E-mail: kmfengg@gmail.com

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/ Printing job work /02240/2025-26 Date: 06-03-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

[Two cover System] [Through KPP Portal only]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites Short term tender through KPPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested eligible firms may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website **https://www.kppp.karantaka.gov.in** and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	Bi-Annual Rate contract for Rotogravure Printing Job & Packing of film at Nandini Packing Film Plant Munnelolala,Bengaluru.	1 Job	4,09,000/-	2 years

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: **09-03-2026 To 20-03-2026 up to 4.00 PM. 2.** Pre Bid Meeting date: **13-03-2026 at 11.30AM. 3.** Last date for Tender submission on date: **20-03-2026 up to 4.00 PM. 4.** Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: **23-03-2026 at 4:30 PM.**

Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on KPPP portal only.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division, Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru - 560052.

No: EE/SJN/E-PROC/24/2025-26 Date: 06-03-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Shivajinagara Division), BCCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BCCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of Work detailed below.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Improvements and Construction of Roads, Drains and Footpaths at Shivajinagara Assembly Constituency **(Package-04)** for the year 2025-26 (Comprising of 03 Works of Govt. Annexure-1). **Indent No. BCCC/2025-26/ OW/WORK_INDENT211 (Call-2) - Amount Put to Tender (without GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 1000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 10,00,000.00 (Rs. 1,00,000.00 NEFT Remaining Rs. 9,00,000.00 Bank Guarantee)**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **11-03-2026 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Zone-2, BCCC, Annex-3, 4th Floor, GBA Office Compound, N.R. Square, Bengaluru. 3)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is **13-03-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **16-03-2026 at 11.30 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Technical Bid Approved.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division, BCCC.

CHIKKABALLAPURA DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S SOCIETIES UNION LIMITED., CHIKKABALLAPURA

Admns off: Yaluvahalli, Nandi Cross, Doddamarali Post, NH-44, Chikkaballapura – 562 103.
GST:: 29AAFAC7468L2Z1 Email ID:chimulpurchase@gmail.com

IFT No. CHIMUL/ PUR/ E-PROCUREMENT/ 4279/2025-26 Date: 05.03.2026

**** E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION ****

The Chikkaballapura Milk Union Limited, Chikkaballapura invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the supply of the following materials.

Sl. No.	Description of Material	Qty In No's
	Supply of 3 Ply Corrugated Boxes to pack following UHT Good Life variants /Flexi Milk For the Period One year to Mega Dairy, Chikkaballapur	
01	135 ml Flexi with Partitions to pack Double Toned Healthy Life Milk Packs	4,20,000
02	450 ml Flexi with Partitions to pack Toned Trupti Milk Packs	3,00,000
03	500 ml Flexi with Partitions to pack Double Toned Vijaya Vajra Milk Packs	10,00,000
04	200ml Toned/Smart/Flavoured Milk Brik Packs without Partitions	2,40,000
05	500ml Toned/Slim/ Vijayavajra Milk Brik Packs without Partitions	6,00,000
06	1000 ml Toned/Gold / Slim / Coffe Day / Vijayavajra Milk Brik Packs without Partitions	22,00,000
07	1000ml Cow Milk HELICAP Brik Packs for Export with Partitions	1,00,000
08	1000ml Cow Milk Brik Packs with Partitions for Defence	1,20,000

Access to E-tender Documents : 06.03.2026 to 04.04.2026 5.30 PM
Last date for submission : on or before 04.04.2026 5.30 PM
Date of opening of Tech. Tender : 06.04.2026, 11.00 AM onwards

Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/.

Sd/-
Managing Director.
Chikkaballapura Milk Union Ltd., Chikkaballapura

CLARIFICATION OF NAME

I, **Vijaykumar Dinni** S/o Sangappa Dinni R/at No.B-21, 206, Alur BDA Phase-2, Type-3, Huskur Main Road, Near Golden Farm, Bengaluru-562123 do hereby solemnly state that, **VIJAYKUMAR DINNI** is my correct name. But in my Passport (No.K3231284) my name is mentioned ad **DINNI VIJAYKUMAR SANGAPPA.** I further state that both the above mentioned names refers to same person i.e., me only. I further state that I will continue as **VIJAYKUMAR DINNI** for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 05.03.2026 sworn to Notary.

Prime Ministers Museum & Library

Government of India
Ministry of Culture
सत्यमेव जयते

Teen Murti Bhawan, New Delhi - 110011

CALL FOR OFFERING OF ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS OF SRI RAMAYANA AND RELATED TO SHRI RAM

It is proposed to establish a **National Repository of Ramayana Manuscripts.**
In this context, Individual Scholars, Traditional Families, Mathas. Ashrams, Libraries, Universities, Govemment Institutions. Trusts, And Private Collectors acros~ the nation are respectfully invited to **DONATE** or offer ancient and rare manuscripts of the Ramayana composed in:

- Sanskrit and other Indian languages
- Written in traditional Indian scripts (Brahmi, Devanagari, Graniha, Sarada, Nandinagari, Bengali, Odia, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, Gujarati, Modi Lipi etc.)

Manuscripts may include. but are not limited to: Valmiki Ramayana ,Regional recensions (reading) and versions, Commentaries, nm:s. sub-commentaries. and ancillary texts and illustrated manuscripts produced on palm-leaf or paper.

This sacred initiative seeks to preserve the timeless legacy of the Ramayana for future generations.

The donor will first communicate intention to donate with the following details:

a) Title of the manuscnpt (if available)
b) Age of the manuscript (if possible) or approx.
c) Script / Lip /i of the manuscript
d) Material form of the manuscript i.e. paper. leaf etc.
e) Video sample preference first and last page as well as colour photographs.
f) Size and folio number etc. (approx.)

NOTE: No Published Material will be accepted.

Interested contributors may contact:

Shri Sanjib Kumar Singh. Director. Antarrashtriya Ram Katha Sangrahalaya
Postal Address:~ Antarrashtriya Ram Katha Sangrahalaya, Shri Ram Janmohoomi Teerth Kshetra, Nayaghat, Ayodhya - 224123 UP
Mobile: 9968275856, Landline: 05278297215
Email: kumarsinghsanjib@yahoo.co.in ramkathamusemum2023@gmail.com

CBC 09142/12/0063/2526

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

E-Tender Notice No: Y-E-29-2025-26-98 Dated: 27.02.2026

SN	Description of work	Approx. value
1	OHE Modification for Platform Extension Work at Mosale Hosahalli, Mavinkere and Kardi.	₹24,71,462.02/-

E-Tender Notice No. Y-E-29-2025-26-99 Dated: 28.02.2026

2	Provision of Rigid Overhead Catenary System (ROCS) on Railway line near Mysuru Airport Allocation: 00873521 (CN/BNC)	₹3,54,00,000/-

Last Date for Submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 23.03.2026**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD/ Mysuru
PUB/960/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR @SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

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ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ.

ಕಂಗ್ರಾಳಿ ಕೆ. ಹೆಚ್. ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ – 590 010, ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ: ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ, ರಾಜ್ಯ: ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 0831 – 2478927,
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : apmcbelgaum@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕೃ.ಮಾ.ಇ./ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ.(ಬೆ)/ಅಭಿಕೆ/2255/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 05–03–2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ. ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	
					ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್	ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್
01	**Replacement of exiting deterorated L.T.U.G Cable System by providing over head System Using 9 mtrs RCC Poles with 3 phase, 5 wire L.T Aerial Bunched cable with LED Streetlights and Highmast light at main Market yard of Belagavi APMC (Under Action Plan 2025-26).**	ರೂ. 91.23	ರೂ. 1,82,500.00	25–03–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	27–03–2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	02–04–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
02	ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ. ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ 2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಮರಾಠ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಎದುರುಗಡೆ ಇರುವ ದಿನಸಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಮಳಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು (09 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ.	ರೂ. 8.46	ರೂ. 11,000.00	25–03–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	27–03–2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	02–04–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ : 080 – 22501216 / 25501227 ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ.

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ/2012/ಮಾಧಿಕಾಲ್/2025–26

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ.

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.

The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC(2)/CR/15/2025-26)

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. and Hon'ble High Court Of Karnataka has cleared the title (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority)

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 717/2019)	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1.	Site No. 10, Khata No. 167, (1st A Cross, Rashad Nagar, 'C' Block, Ward No.25 Byatarayanapura CMC) Nagawara Gramathana, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluku, Bengaluru-560045. Total measuring 1080 sq.ft. Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/4vwDADYTmky9BnMr6 Latitude and Longitude: 13°01'49.0"N 77°37'03.2"E			
(a)	Ground Floor-1, Flat No. GF-101, UDS-87.95, SBA-324 sq.ft	12,54,000/-	1,26,000/-	13,000/-
(b)	Ground Floor-2, Flat No. GF-102, UDS-131.30, SBA-484 sq.ft	18,33,500/-	1,84,000/-	19,000/-
(c)	First Floor-1, Flat No. FF -104, UDS-144.71, SBA-534 sq.ft	20,33,000/-	2,04,000/-	21,000/-
(d)	First Floor-2, Flat No. FF -103, UDS-142.21, SBA-524 sq.ft	19,95,000/-	2,00,000/-	20,000/-
(e)	Second Floor-1, Flat No. SF -106, UDS-142.21, SBA-524 sq.ft	20,52,000/-	2,06,000/-	21,000/-
(f)	Second Floor-2, Flat No. SF -105, UDS-142.21, SBA-524 sq.ft	20,14,950/-	2,02,000/-	21,000/-
(g)	Third Floor-1, Flat No. TF -108, UDS-142.21, SBA-524 sq.ft	20,23,500/-	2,03,000/-	21,000/-
(h)	Third Floor-2, Flat No. TF -107, UDS-142.21, SBA-524 sq.ft	19,85,500/-	1,99,000/-	20,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
09th March 2026, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	**12th March 2026 2:00 pm to 05:00pm**	**16th March 2026 Before 5pm**	**18th March 2026 11 am to 1 pm**

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 9945515174.

Date: 02-03-2026
Place: Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6059/NR/2025-26

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.

The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC(2)/CR/18/2025-26)

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. and Hon'ble High Court Of Karnataka has cleared the title (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority)

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 693/2019)	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1.	All that piece and parcel of the Commercial Building bearing No.25 Old No.1/1, Lady Curzon Road, Shivaji Nagar, Bengaluru having PID No.79-46-25. Measuring East to West 110 ft and North to South 20 ft and aggregating 2200 sq.ft. bounded on East by: Lady Curzon Road, West by: Private Property, North by: Remaining Portion of Site No.25, South by: Property No.24 Vacant Place. Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/j3SWPPffpfBw3XNM6. Latitude and Longitude: 12°58'51.0"N 77°36'15.3"E.	9,69,95,000/-	97,00,000/-	9,70,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
09th March 2026, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	**13th March 2026 11:00 am to 1:00pm**	**16th March 2026 Before 5pm**	**18th March 2026 11 am to 1 pm**

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 9945515174.

Date: 02-03-2026
Place: Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6063/NR/2025-26

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, MAR. 07	
RISE 06:32	SET 18:29
RISE 21:45	SET 08:49
SUNDAY, MAR. 08	
RISE 06:31	SET 18:29
RISE 22:35	SET 09:29
MONDAY, MAR. 09	
RISE 06:31	SET 18:29
RISE 23:27	SET 10:11

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	33	21
Bengaluru	34	20

Bengaluru Today
33°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be slight cool.

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Police rescue woman from 25-foot-deep pit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru police on Friday rescued a 56-year-old woman, identified as Sudha Parimala, who accidentally fell into a 25-foot-deep pit near a public park in west Bengaluru's Nagarabhavi. Her son immediately alerted the 112 emergency helpline. Officers at the control room alerted the Chandra Layout Police Station and a team was dispatched. The officers reached the location in four minutes and located the woman. They used a rope to pull the woman out of the pit. She was later shifted to a private hospital.

Rail Land Development Authority
(A Statutory Authority under Ministry of Railways, Government of India)
Unit No. 702-B, 7th Floor, Konnectus Tower-II, DMRC Building, Ajmeri Gate, New Delhi-110002

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-TENDER
(RFP Notice No. RLDA/2026/RFP/CRD/21 of 2026 dt 06.02.2026)

"Grant of Lease of 14,950 sq.m (approx.) Railway Land for Residential & Commercial Development for a period of 99 years and License of 17,165 sq.m (approx.) area for Redevelopment of Railway Colony at Manglore near Manglore Central Railway Station in Palaghat Division of Southern Railway".

Site Description	Area to be Leased (sqm)	FAR	Reserve Price in terms of NPV	Redevelopment Cost	Revenue Share To RLDA
Manglore Central Railway Colony	14,950	3.68 (Base FAR: 2.3 & Premium FAR: 1.38)	Rs. 86.0 Cr	Rs. 52.86 Cr	Minimum 23.0% of Gross Revenue

Online & Offline Pre-Bid Meeting: 10th March, 2026 at 11:30 Hrs
(Online & Offline Pre-bid meeting details to be obtained from JGM/Project/Bangalore)
Last Date of Submission of E-bid Online: 14.04.2026 upto 15:00 Hrs
For Further details of the project, please visit our website https://rlda.indianrailways.gov.in or on e-procurement Portal https://www.tenderwizard.in/RLDA under the heading 'e-tender'
For any clarifications, may please contact: -

Chief Project Manager / Bangalore M: 9741604203 pervesh02k@gmail.com	Joint General Manager/ Project / Bangalore M: 9959187887 jgmpsbc@rlda.railnet.gov.in	Consultant: M/s CBRE (i) Ms. Prageeja K, M: 8050016272 prageeja.k@cbre.com (ii) Mr. Manohar L A, M: 8105619138 manohar.la@cbre.com	For e-bid queries: Mr. Suraj Singh M: 9599653865 suraj@etenderwizard.com

Note:- Any Corrigendum or Addendum will be published only on above mentioned websites. JGM/Tender/Expert (M) 9711305031

AN APPEAL

The "Uttankita Vidya Aranya Trust", was founded by the Mahaswami of the Kanchi Mutt,
Pujyasri Chandrasekara Saraswati Swamigal
to Collect all epigraphs in Sanskrit from all over the world, translate them to English and to publish the works in a series.

With the blessing and support of His Holiness Vijayendra Saraswati Swamigal of the Kanchi Mutt the Trust has so far published 12 volumes of these translations from 257 B.C. to 1182 A.D.

The Trust now proposes to bring out publications to cover the years from 1182 A.D. till the date these historical inscriptions are found and dispatch the volumes to all major libraries in the World.

Those interested in supporting this venture of the Trust are requested to send their donations to
"UTTANKITA VIDYA ARANYA TRUST",
Savings account, Indian Overseas Bank,
Sardar Patel Road Adyar Branch,
Account No.000201000008963,
IFSC CODE - IOBA0000002, MICR CODE - 600020043.

The Trust enjoys Section 80G exemption. For any further queries

Contact: 9841013617

NLC India Limited
('Navratna' - Government of India Enterprise)
Registered Office: No.135, EVR Periyar High Road, Kilpauk, Chennai - 600 010.
Corporate Office: Block-1, Neyveli-607 801, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu.
CIN : L93090TN1956GOI003507 / Website: www.nlcindia.in

Advt.No: 05/2026

ENGAGEMENT OF GENERAL DUTY MEDICAL OFFICERS AND SPECIALIST DOCTORS ON FIXED TERM EMPLOYMENT (FTE) BASIS.

NLC India Limited, a 'NAVRATNA' Public Sector Enterprise is looking for General Duty Medical Officers (GDMOs) and Specialist Doctors on Fixed Term Employment basis for a period of Three years for its 350 bedded General Hospital at Neyveli, Tamil Nadu.

S.No.	Name of the FTE Post	Speciality / Number of vacancies
(a)	(b)	(c)
1	General Duty Medical Officer (GDMOs)	General Medicine – 09 Ayurveda – 01 Dentist - 01
		Total number of vacancies - 11
2	Specialist Doctor	Gynaecology & Obstetrics - 02 Ophthalmology - 01 Pediatric - 01 General Medicine - 01 Radiology – 01
		Total number of vacancies - 06

For Detailed Information on Eligibility Criteria, Important Dates, Online Application, Upper Age Limit, Reservation & Relaxation and Selection Process etc., please refer detailed advertisement to be released shortly in career page of NLCIL website "www.nlcindia.in".

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Soma Basu
Journalist, Moderator

Sunday, March 8, 2026 | 11:30 am onwards

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200 illegal foreign nationals detained; 124 Bangladeshi nationals arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a drive against illegal immigrants and foreigners overstaying their visas, the Bengaluru city police on Friday arrested 200 foreign nationals, including 124 alleged Bangladeshi nationals. Four teams of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) launched a targeted operation in east Bengaluru's Varthur and Kadugodi in the early hours of Friday.

Police officials say the individuals are being questioned

During the raid, the police detained 124 alleged Bangladeshi nationals, including 48 men, 42 women, and 34 children, who had reportedly taken shelter in makeshift sheds.

Police officials said the individuals are currently being questioned. A report has been submitted to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for further legal action, including deportation proceedings.

The operation was also assisted by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, the Greater Bengaluru Authority, and the Department of Social Welfare.

The police said the drive will be intensified in the coming days.

MYSORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

In Mysore.... My Home

E-Auction Notification of Corner, Intermediate, Premium Sites in prominent locations Developed by Mysore Development Authority
No.MDA/E-AN/02/2025-26 / 27.02.2026

1) E-Auction Commencement Date: 11.03.2026 after 6.00 PM Indian Standard Time 2) Last date for expressing interest to participate in the e-auction for serial numbers 1 to 50 : 23.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM Indian Standard Time And the date of commencement of direct bidding for e-auction is 26.03.2026 at 11.00 AM Indian Standard Time and the date of Closing direct bidding is 27.03.2026 upto 4:00 PM Indian Standard Time (Delta Time 5:00 minutes) 3) Last date for expressing interest to participate in the e-auction for serial numbers 51 to 100 : 23.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM Indian Standard Time And the date of commencement of direct bidding for e-auction is 30.03.2026 at 11.00 AM Indian Standard Time and the date of Closing direct bidding is 01.04.2026 upto 4:00 PM Indian Standard Time (Delta Time 5:00 minutes) 4) Last date for expressing interest to participate in the e-auction for serial numbers 101 to 150 : 23.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM Indian Standard Time And the date of commencement of direct bidding for e-auction is 02.04.2026 at 11.00 AM Indian Standard Time and the date of Closing direct bidding is 04.04.2026 upto 4:00 PM Indian Standard Time (Delta Time 5:00 minutes). 5) Last date for expressing interest to participate in the e-auction for serial numbers 151 to 200 : 23.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM Indian Standard Time And the date of commencement of direct bidding for e-auction is 06.04.2026 at 11.00 AM Indian Standard Time and the date of Closing direct bidding is 07.04.2026 upto 4:00 PM Indian Standard Time (Delta Time 5:00 minutes).

Sl. No.	Layout Name	Site No.	Inter./ Corner	Road Facing/ In Mtr.	Measurement (In mtrs) N-S	Measurement (In mtrs) E-W	Area in Sq mtrs	Value of Sq. mtrs	Site Value (Rs. In Lakhs)
Corner and Intermediate sites									
1	Nachanahalli-Kuppaluru 3rd Stage 'D' Block	99	Corner	West 9.00	13.00	18.00	234.00	79256.00	185.46
2	JP Nagara 1st Stage 'F' Block	72	Corner	E-N 9.00	24.00	(18.00+19.00)/2	444.00	79256.00	351.90
3	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	754	Corner	12-9 E-N	11.20	18.00	201.60	64986.00	131.02
4	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1025/B	Intermediate	East 9.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	58003.00	31.32
5	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1050/B	Intermediate	West 9.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	58003.00	31.32
6	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1229	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	58003.00	62.64
7	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1615	Corner	18-9 N-E	12.00	9.00	108.00	64986.00	70.18
8	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1616	Corner	9.00 E-S	12.00	9.00	108.00	64986.00	70.18
9	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1631	Corner	12-9 E-N	12.00	8.50	102.00	64986.00	66.29
10	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1631/F	Corner	9.00 N-W	12.00	(13.00+14.60)/2	165.60	64986.00	107.62
11	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1632	Corner	12-9 E-S	12.00	8.50	102.00	64986.00	66.29
12	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1632/A	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	58003.00	62.64
13	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1632/F	Corner	9.00 W-S	12.00	(11.00+13.00)/2	144.00	64986.00	93.58
14	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1638/A	Intermediate	North 9.00	9.00	6.00	54.00	58003.00	31.32
15	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1638/C	Corner	9.00 N-W	9.00	(9.50+7.80)/2	77.85	64986.00	50.59
16	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1644	Corner	12-9 E-N	9.00	(5.40+6.00)/2	51.30	64986.00	33.34
17	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1645	Corner	12-9 E-S	9.00	5.40	48.60	64986.00	31.58
18	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1651/D	Corner	9.00 W-S	9.00	(7.80+6.00)/2	62.10	64986.00	40.36
19	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1660	Corner	9.00 W-S	(8.50+8.20)/2	12.00	100.20	64986.00	65.12
20	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1660/A	Intermediate	West 9.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	58003.00	62.64
21	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1670	Corner	18-12 N-W	9.00	12.00	108.00	64986.00	70.18
22	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	1671	Corner	18-12 N-E	9.00	12.00	108.00	64986.00	70.18
23	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	2929	Corner	9-12 N-W	9.00	5.90	53.10	64986.00	34.51
24	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	E-141/A	Intermediate	North 9.00	(0+8.98)/2	37.00	166.13	58003.00	96.36
25	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	2930	Corner	12.00 S-W	9.00	5.90	53.10	64986.00	34.51
26	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	2956	Corner	12.00 S-E	(5.00+6.20)/2	9.00	50.40	64986.00	32.75
27	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	2957	Corner	12-9 S-W	(7.00+6.20)/2	9.00	59.40	64986.00	38.60
28	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	2963	Intermediate	West 9.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	58003.00	31.32
29	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	2969	Corner	9.00 N-W	6.00	9.00	54.00	64986.00	35.09
30	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	3098	Intermediate	South 12.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	58003.00	125.29
31	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	4499	Intermediate	North 24.00	24.00	15.00	360.00	58003.00	208.81
32	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	4501	Corner	24-12 N-E	24.00	(15.50+17.50)/2	396.00	64986.00	257.34
33	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	4553	Corner	12-12 S-E	12.00	11.80	141.60	64986.00	92.02
34	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	4516	Corner	12-12 S-E	18.00	(16.00+17.00)/2	297.00	64986.00	193.01
35	Dattagalli 3rd Stage	2944	Corner	12-9 N-E	6.80	9.00	61.20	64986.00	39.77
36	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	1756	Corner	N-E 9.00	24.00	16.15	387.60	86009.00	333.37
37	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	1766	Corner	N-E 9.00	24.00	(16.50+16.00)/2	390.00	86009.00	335.44
38	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	2847	Corner	E-S 9.00	12.00	10.40	124.80	86009.00	107.34
39	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	4776	Corner	9-12 N-W	9.00	(3.90+3.96)/2	35.37	86009.00	30.42
40	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	6128	Corner	N-E 9.00	24.00	12.20	292.80	86009.00	251.83
41	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	7030	Corner	N-E 9.00	4.60	18.00	82.80	86009.00	71.22
42	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	7281	Corner	S-E 9.00	8.40	12.00	100.80	86009.00	86.70
43	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	7326	Corner	S-W 9.00	8.80	12.00	105.60	86009.00	90.83
44	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9004	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
45	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9005	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
46	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9006	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
47	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9007	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
48	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9008	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
49	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9009	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
50	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9010	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
51	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9011	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
52	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9013	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
53	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9016	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
54	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9028	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
55	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9029	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
56	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9030	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
57	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9031	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
58	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9032	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
59	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9033	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
60	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9034	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
61	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9035	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
62	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9036	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
63	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9037	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
64	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9038	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
65	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9063	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
66	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9064	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
67	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9065	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
68	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9067	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
69	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9068	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
70	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9069	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
71	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9070	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
72	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9071	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
73	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9072	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
74	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9073	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
75	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9074	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
76	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9075	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
77	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9076	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59275.00	64.02
78	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9089	Intermediate	South 9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
79	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9090	Intermediate	South 9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
80	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9091	Intermediate	South 9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
81	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9092	Intermediate	South 9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
82	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	9093	Intermediate	South 9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
83	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11160	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
84	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11161	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
85	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11162	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
86	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11162/B	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
87	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11162/A	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
88	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11165	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
89	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11166	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
90	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11167	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
91	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11168	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
92	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11169	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
93	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11170	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
94	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11171	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
95	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11172	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
96	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11173	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
97	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11174	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
98	Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase	11232	Intermediate	East 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59275.00	128.03
99	Hebbal 2nd Stage	60/A	Intermediate	South 8.0 mtr	10.00	5.50	55.00	64472.00	35.46
100	Hebbal 2nd Stage	60/B	Intermediate	South 8.0 mtr	10.00	5.50	55.00	64472.00	35.46
101	Hebbal 2nd Stage	658	Intermediate	East 9.0 mtr	(4.20+4.50)/2	9.00	39.15	64472.00	25.24
102	Hebbal 2nd Stage	1017/A	Intermediate	West 7.0 mtr	5.20	9.00	46.80	64472.00	30.17
103	Hebbal 2nd Stage	2598	Corner	West 9.00	6.00	9.00	54.00	64489.00	34.82
104	Hebbal 1st Stage	1190/I	Intermediate	South 9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	73539.00	158.84
105	Hebbal 1st Stage	1190/H	Intermediate	South 9.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	73539.00	158.84
106	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	2784	Corner	N-W 9.00	(0.5+11.00)/2	18.00	103.50	99318.00	102.79
107	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	2993	Corner	South & East 9.00	14.00	(9+12)/2	147.00	99318.00	146.00
108	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4039	Corner	West & South 9.0 & 6.0	(8+5.50)/2	12.00	81.00	99318.00	80.45
109	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4245	Corner	North & East 9.0 & 6.0	9.00	5.00	45.00	99318.00	44.69
110	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4280	Corner	South & East 9.0 & 6.0	9.00	(4.5+5.0)/2	42.75	99318.00	42.46
111	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4321	Corner	North & East 9.0 & 6.0	9.00	6.00	54.00	99318.00	53.63
112	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4360	Corner	South & East 9.0 & 6.0	9.00	7.20	64.80	99318.00	64.36
113	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4624	Corner	North & West 18.0 & 6.0	13.00	(18+16.5)/2	224.25	99318.00	222.72
114	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4739	Corner	South & East 9.0 & 9.0	8.50	9.00	76.50	99318.00	75.98
115	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4774	Corner	South & West 9.0 & 18.0	(15+12)/2	18.00	243.00	99318.00	241.34

Continued....

A BG-BGE

Comprehensive coastal tourism plan in Budget

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Budget has allocated ₹1 crore specifically to train tourist guides, taxi and auto drivers, and security staff to ensure that tourists visiting the State have a pleasant experience. FILE PHOTO

Recognising the tourism potential of Karnataka's coastal districts, the State government plans to prepare a "Comprehensive Coastal Tourism Development Plan", Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced in the Budget on Friday. Connectivity to key attractions will be enhanced through sea plane and helitaxi services, developed in collaboration with private stakeholders, while joy rides and river cruises will also be promoted, he said.

In January, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had announced that the State government plans to unveil a separate tourism policy for coastal Karnataka after consulting with stakeholders. He noted that despite the region's pristine beaches, rich knowledge base, and natural resources, tourism in coastal Karnataka has not developed as expected.

The Budget has allocated ₹1 crore specifically to train tourist guides, taxi and auto drivers, and security staff to ensure that tourists visiting the State have a pleasant experience.

Furthermore, to preserve the State's heritage, 1,000 '*smaraka mitra*' (firms, NGOs designated for conserving, maintaining, and developing tourist amenities at a site for at least five years) will be trained and accredited by the Tourism Department to protect 844 protected monuments and 1,000 unprotected monuments across Karnataka.

Anjanadri Hill

A ₹100 crore plan to develop Anjanadri Hill in Koppal district into a world-class tourist destination will proceed after getting the required forest and environmental clearances from the Union government, and concurrence of UNESCO, the Chief Minister said.

The Gadag-Kappatagudda-Lakkundi tourism circuit will be developed. A ropeway in PPP mode will connect Mullayangiri, Seethalayyagiri, and Kaimara in Chikkamagaluru district, aimed at boosting tourism in the region.

Moreover, ₹10 crore has been set aside for completing the remaining infrastructure development of the Karnataka Exhibition Authority in Mysuru.

Budget sees education, skill push for construction workers' kin

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A slew of announcements for construction workers in the State were made during the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's 17th Budget speech.

Mr. Siddaramaiah earmarked ₹600 crore for establishing 10 Government Tool Room & Training Centres (GTTC) for the education of children of construction workers. The centres will be set up by the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (KBOCWWB) at a cost of ₹60 crore each. He also announced 62 new Labour Residential Schools for children of workers registered with the KBOCWWB, who are studying in classes 6 to 12. The schools will start in 2026-27. As many as 42 Labour Residential Schools were sanctioned in the year 2025-26. All the schools will be housed in rented buildings. Another announcement included the establishment of a Skill Training Academy in Hubli-Dharwad at an estimated cost of ₹200 crore to provide vocational foundation and upskilling training to workers registered with the KBOCWWB, and their children.

Film shooting permission: CM proposes online platform

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Considering the long-time demand of the film industry, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has proposed to set up Cine Mitra, a single-window online digital platform to get all necessary permissions from various departments for film shooting and related activities. Filmmakers need to take permission from different agencies to shoot their movie in tourist locations.

He said that the government has decided to construct a film city in Mysuru at a cost of ₹500 crore.

He also proposed to launch a Karnataka Film Location Digital Map that contains information on tourist destinations, historical monuments, and filming spots in the State. He has earmarked ₹1 crore for the purpose.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No. BSWML/DGM-3/Tend/22/Corr-2/25-26 Date: 06.03.2026

CORRIGENDUM- 02

The calendar of events for tender indent numbers as per notification No: **DGM-3/(BSWML)/Tend/22/25-26,** dt. **25.02.2026** is extended as below due to Administrative and Technical reasons.

Time schedule/ calendar of events: Table-1- Tender Indent Number: BSWML/2025-26/SE0253, SE0254, SE0256, SE0257, SE0258, SE0259 and SE0260

Sl.No	Description	As per tender notification	Extended dates to be read as
1	Last date of Submission of bids in KPP Portal	On 07.03.2026 before 16:00 hrs.	On 11.03.2026 before 16:00 hrs.
2	The Technical Bid Opening date in KPP Portal	On 09.03.2026 after 12:30 hrs.	On 12.03.2026 after 16:30 hrs.

Table-2- Tender Indent Number: BSWML/2025-26/SE0251

Sl.No	Description	As per tender notification	Extended dates to be read as
1	Last date of Submission of bid sin KPP Portal	On 07.03.2026 before 16:00 hrs.	On 16.03.2026 before 16:00 hrs.
2	The Technical Bid Opening date in KPP Portal	On 09.03.2026 after 12:30 hrs.	On 17.03.2026 after 16:30 hrs.

For Further details visit GOK KPP portal Website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3
BSWML

DIPR/CP/AAA/6065/2025-26

Sl. No.	Layout Name	Site No.	Inter./ Corner	Road Facing/ In Mtr.	Measurement (In mtrs) N-S	Measurement (In mtrs) E-W	Area in Sq mtrs	Value of Sq. mtrs	Site Value (Rs. In Lakhs)
116	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	5100	Corner	South & West 9.0 & 6.0	9.00	(4.50+4.0)/2	38.25	99318.00	37.99
117	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	5715	Corner	West & South 9.0 & 9.0	(8.50+2.00)/2	18.40	96.60	99318.00	95.94
118	Vijayanagara 2nd Stage	4795	Corner	South & West 9.0 & 9.0	(9.5+8.5)/2	12.00	108.00	99318.00	107.26
119	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2014	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45420.00	98.11
120	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2167	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45420.00	98.11
121	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2168	Intermediate	North 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45420.00	98.11
122	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2280/D	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45420.00	98.11
123	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2280/E	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45420.00	98.11
124	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2280/F	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45420.00	98.11
125	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2280/G	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45420.00	98.11
126	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2280/H	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45420.00	98.11
127	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2280/I	Intermediate	South9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45420.00	98.11
128	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2280/J	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45420.00	98.11
129	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2280/K	Intermediate	South 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45420.00	98.11
130	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2233	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45420.00	98.11
131	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2230	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45420.00	98.11
132	Devanur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase	2231	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	45420.00	98.11
133	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	01	Corner	N:9.00 E:9.00	9.00	11.70	105.30	59180.00	62.32
134	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	12	Corner	S:12.00 E:9.00	6.60	11.50	75.90	59180.00	44.92
135	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	24	Corner	N:9.00 W:9.00	9.50	11.70	111.15	59180.00	65.78
136	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	79	Corner	S:12.00 W:9.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
137	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	90	Corner	N: 9.00 W:9.00	10.00	11.00	110.00	59180.00	65.10
138	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	100	Corner	S:12.00 W:12.00	12.20	18.00	219.60	59180.00	129.96
139	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	133	Corner	N:12.00 E: 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59180.00	127.83
140	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	144	Corner	S:12.00 E:9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59180.00	127.83
141	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	121	Corner	S:12.00 W:9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59180.00	127.83
142	Shanthaveri Gopal Gowda	120	Corner	S:12.00 E:9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59180.00	127.83
143	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	280	Corner	S:9.00 W:12.00	13.00	18.00	234.00	59180.00	138.48
144	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	300	Corner	N:12.00 E:9.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
145	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	318	Corner	N:12.00 W:12.00	12.00	6.00	72.00	59180.00	42.61
146	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	338	Corner	N:12.00 E: 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
147	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	363	Corner	S:9.00 W:12.00	12.00	13.70	164.40	59180.00	97.29
148	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	485	Corner	S:9.00 W:12.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
149	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	653	Corner	S:9.00 W:9.00	13.00	12.00	156.00	59180.00	92.32
150	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	668	Corner	N:9.00 W:9.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
151	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	863	Corner	N:9.00 W:12.00	18.00	12.00	216.00	59180.00	127.83
152	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	923	Corner	N:18.00 W:12.00	24.00	15.00	360.00	59180.00	213.05
153	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	1313	Corner	N:9.00 E:9.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
154	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	1314	Corner	N:9.00 W:12.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59180.00	127.83
155	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	1322	Corner	N:12.00 W:12.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
156	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	1343	Corner	N:12.00 W:12.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
157	Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar	1415	Corner	SN:9.00 E:12.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	59180.00	127.83
158	Lalithadrinagar (South)	721	Corner	North: 18.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
159	Lalithadrinagar (South)	722	Corner	North:18.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	59180.00	63.91
160	Gayathripuram 1st Stage	388	Intermediate	West: 9.00	9.00	14.00	126.00	64560.00	81.35
161	Gayathripuram 1st Stage	373	Intermediate	East: 9.00	9.00	15.00	135.00	64560.00	87.16
162	Gayathripuram 1st Stage	345	Intermediate	West: 9.00	10.00	12.00	120.00	64560.00	77.47
163	Gayathripuram 1st Stage	341	Intermediate	West: 9.00	10.70	12.00	128.4	64560.00	82.90
164	Gayathripuram 1st Stage	314	Intermediate	West: 9.00	12.00	9.00	108.00	64560.00	69.72
165	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	4622	Corner	9.00 E-N	(9.00+9.30)/2	(6.60+6.60)/2	60.39	37660.00	22.74
166	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	4649	Corner	9.00 W-N	9.00	6.00	54.00	37660.00	20.34
167	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	4648	Corner	9.00 S-W	9.00	(6.10+6.30)/2	55.80	37660.00	21.01
168	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	4597	Corner	9.00 N-W	9.20	6.10	56.12	37660.00	21.13
169	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	4596	Corner	9.00 W-S	9.00	(6.15+6.20)/2	55.57	37660.00	20.93
170	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	4545	Corner	9.00 N	9.00	(6.10+6.15)/2	55.12	37660.00	20.76
171	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5406	Corner	9.00 E-W	9.00	(6.00+8.50)/2	65.25	37660.00	24.57
172	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5405	Intermediate	9.00 South	9.00	6.00	54.00	32280.00	17.43
173	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5404	Intermediate	9.00 South	9.00	6.00	54.00	32280.00	17.43
174	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5403	Intermediate	9.00 South	9.00	6.00	54.00	32280.00	17.43
175	Sathagalli 2nd Stage	5402	Intermediate	9.00 South	9.00	6.00	54.00	32280.00	17.43
176	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1698	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
177	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1697	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
178	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1696	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
179	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1695	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
180	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1694	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
181	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1693	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
182	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1692	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
183	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1688	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
184	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1689	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
185	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1690	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
186	Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone	1691	Intermediate	9.00 East	15.00	24.00	360.00	48643.00	175.11
187	Vasanth Nagar	651	Intermediate	12.00 E-W	9.00	12.00	108.00	37660.00	40.67
188	Vasanth Nagar	682	Intermediate	12.00 E-W	9.00	12.00	108.00	37660.00	40.67
189	Vasanth Nagar	725	Intermediate	West 12.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	37660.00	40.67
190	Vasanth Nagar	754	Intermediate	West 12.00	9.00	12.00	108.00	37660.00	40.67
191	Vasanth Nagar	09	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	37660.00	81.35
192	Vasanth Nagar	10	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	37660.00	81.35
193	Vasanth Nagar	11	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	37660.00	81.35
194	Vasanth Nagar	12	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	37660.00	81.35
195	Vasanth Nagar	210	Intermediate	West 9.00	12.00	18.00	216.00	37660.00	81.35
196	Vasanth Nagar	1910	Intermediate	East 24.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	37660.00	135.58
197	Vasanth Nagar	1911	Intermediate	East 24.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	37660.00	135.58
198	Vasanth Nagar	1912	Intermediate	East 24.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	37660.00	135.58
199	Vasanth Nagar	1913	Intermediate	East 24.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	37660.00	135.58
200	Vasanth Nagar	1914	Intermediate	East 24.00	15.00	24.00	360.00	37660.00	135.58

Terms and Conditions of e-auction

1) The Participants of the auction should be a citizen of India. Partnership firm/Limited companies/Trusts registered in Inida may also participate in the e-auction. **2)** E-auction participants need more information they can download the simplified e-auction user guide by logging on to http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov. in available on Citizen Division Home Page. For additional information visit kppp Portal or Contact 080 - 46010000 and 080-68948777 **3)** The Participants should download the Specimen Signature format (Write the Name & Father Name in Kannada & English) and Contact Details format from http:/ /kppp.karnataka.gov.in. upload the filled formats. **4)** Those who want to buy the e-auction sites jointly, should also upload the documents jointly in e-auction portal. **5)** Sites will be auctioned on 'as is where is' condition. There is no provision for change of site. **6)** There should be minimum of 2 bidders for the e-auciton Sites. Single bidder will be rejected. **7)** The 5 minutes of delta time shall be extended to the last moment bids of e-auction. For example: If the e-auction Bidding close Time is 16.00 hours, In case any bid submitted in 15.57 hours, the closure time will be extended to another 5 Minutes i.e. 16.02 hours. **8)** EMD payable to participate in e-auction Rs.4.00 Lakhs for sites having the base price Rs.1.00 Crore and Above. Rs.2.00 Lakh for the sites having the base price less than Rs.1.00 Crore and e-Auction processing fees also to be deposited through Debit card/ Credit Card/Net Banking to ICICI bank by e-procurement protal. **9)** The minimum Bid change price is Rs.25,000/- for the sites which is having base price below Rs. 1.00 Crore and Rs.1,00,000/- for the sites which is having base price Rs. 1.00 Crore and above. **10)** The highest bidder should check the site approval status in http:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in. and shall remit 25% of bid amount from the bidder account only through **RTGS/NEFT (Excluding EMD of Rs. 4,00,000/- or Rs. 2,00,000/-)** before **72 hours** to Account Holder Name: Commissioner MDA Mysore, Bank of Baroda, Account No.89260100004660 (IFSC Code No. BARB0VJMUDA) (Fifth Digit will be Zero). Bidder should submit the 25% amount payment receipt and 2 Passport size photos to Office. If the successful bidder failing to pay the 25% of the bid amount their EMD amount will be forfeited. **11)** Myosre Development Authority has the right to withdraw any auctioned sites at any time. **12)** The auction of said sites will be held according to 1991 Karnataka Development Authorities Act (Disposal of corner and commercial sites) Rule 6(2) the Commissioner Mysore Development Authority, Mysore reserves the right to accept or reject the bid without assigning any reason and prior notice. **13)** The EMD Amount of unsuccessful bidders will be returned to their Bank Account by eproc.karnataka.gov.in of Karnataka after bidding is finalized. **14)** If any difference is found in the Dimension of the sites during the final transfer to the bidder, if the Dimension is less, for less Dimension amount will be refunded. If the Dimension is more, Bidder should has to pay the additional amount for the increased area. If the bidder does not agree, then 25% of the bid amount will be forfeited and the auction will be cancelled. **15)** Bidder should pay the remaining 75% of bid amount from their own Bank account and should submit the receipt copy with Sale Deed request to Office.**16)** The Successful bidder shall pay the balance 75% amount after receiving the Auction Confirmation Letter in 45 days without interest. If who need time extension to pay the 75% amount 18% of interest will be applicable for 90 days and 21% of interest applicable for futher 30 days with the prior permission of the commissioner. **17.** As per Column 194 IA of the Income Tax Act, 1961, In case where the total value of the property auctioned exceeds Rs. 50.00 lakhs, the auction purchaser should be deduct an amount of 1 percent of the total value of the property and liable to pay the same to the Income Tax Department. **18)** In case the longitude and latitude given in the auction announcement is not identified due to manual error, the bidder may confirm the same with the relevant engineers. No refund will be allowed If you request a refund of the amount paid stating that the longitude and latitude are different.

19) CONTACT FOR LOCATION DETAILS: A) Zonal office -1 - 1). Nachanahlli - Kuppaluru 3rd Stage, J.P.Nagara Layout - Smt Roopasri, AE., Mobile: 9740029156 B) Zonal Office-2 - Dattagalli 3rd Stage Layout - Sri Rajashekar G. JE., Mobile : 9880929640, **C)** Zonal Office-3 - Vijayanagara 4th Stage Layout - Sri. K.P. Sathishchandra, AE., Mobile No.9480446452 **D)** Zonal Office - 4 - Hebbal 2nd Satage Layout, Vijayanagara 2nd Stage Layout - Smt. Pavithra R. AE., Mobile No.: 8197542740 **E)** Zonal Office-5B - Devanuur 2nd Stage 2nd Phase - Sri K.P. Sathishchandra. AE., Mobile: 9480446452. **F)** Zonal Office - 6 - Santhaveri Gopalagowdanagara, Lalbahadurshatri Nagar, Lalithadri (South) - Sri Rajashekar G. JE., Mobile No.9880929640 **G)** Zonal Office - 8 - Sathagalli 2nd Stage & Hanchya-Sathagalli 'B' Zone Layout & Vasanthangar Layout- Smt. Meghana, JE., Mobile No.9480884440 **20)** For information regarding Auction may obtain from website: www.mudamysore.gov.in or contact Ph No. 0821-2421629

Sd/- Commissioner

DIPR/DDMYS/02/KSMCA/992/2025-26

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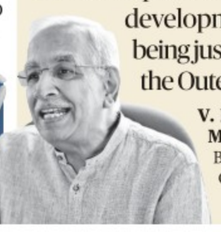
Allocation for Bengaluru

₹ 7,000 cr.

Allocation for Bengaluru remains the same as 2025-26, ₹4,000 crore goes to B-SMILE for big ticket infra projects, ₹3,000 crore to five corporations



"The intermediate ring road is a good development though it must be accompanied by local area development to avoid it being just a road strip like the Outer Ring Road."

V. RAVICHANDAR, MEMBER, Brand Bengaluru Committee

"Just ₹500 crore at this stage does not show great interest from the State government. The Chief Minister has not spoken about Corridor-1, which is the most important corridor."

RAJKUMAR DUGAR, convener of Citizens for Citizens.

"Bengaluru's ₹7,000 crore allocation shows intent, but it must balance essential needs against non-urgent projects. We welcome pedestrian-focused upgrades."

SRIKANTH NARASIMHAN, Founder of Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party

Budget highlights

Hundred Miyawaki parks will be developed in selected urban areas by densely planting native species

Bengaluru city corporations will mobilise resources for development works by issuing municipal bonds based on their balance sheets

More than 450 km of roads will be white-topped at an estimated cost of ₹3,000 crore in the next three years

A fresh Revised Master Plan 2041 (RMP) for Bengaluru will be implemented by the end of 2027

A Comprehensive Mobility Plan will be prepared within six months

For students coming for higher studies and preparation of competitive exams, four 'Vidyarthi Indira Canteens' will be started in Dharwad and two in Bengaluru

INBRIEF

Leopard Rehabilitation Centre to be established

BENGALURU
A Leopard Rehabilitation Centre will be established in Bannerghatta for rehabilitating leopards captured from the residential areas on the outskirts of Bengaluru, at a cost of ₹5 crore. Over the last few years there have been frequent sightings of leopards on the outskirts of the city. Last year, Bengaluru with an estimated population of 80 to 85 leopards overtook Mumbai's documented population of around 54 leopards and became the largest metropolis with the highest known number of free-ranging big cats. A Nature Interpretation Centre will be established under the PPP model to attract tourists.

Software to be developed to identify accident black spots

BENGALURU
To identify and manage accident black spots, the Karnataka government will develop a modern software system with a monitoring dashboard at a cost of ₹5 crore in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

New operation to be initiated as part of prison reforms

BENGALURU
To curb the use of mobile phones, narcotics and other prohibited items in prisons, 'Operation Parishuddhikarana' was announced in the Budget, at an outlay of ₹20 crore. Modern security systems, including AI-based detection, will be installed in prisons. The Chief Minister announced the second phase of the construction of the Mangaluru Central Prison, while work on the Raichur District Central Prison will begin this year. In addition, district central prisons with a capacity of 1,000 inmates each will be constructed in Vijayapura and Bidar at a cost of ₹471 crore, and a Drug De-Addiction Centre will be set up at the Bengaluru Central Prison.

Kayaking centre to come up at Hesaraghatta Lake

BENGALURU
A Centre of Excellence for Kayaking and Canoeing to come up at Hesaraghatta Lake under the PPP model. Modern cycling velodrome will be constructed on the land identified in Dattagalli, Mysuru, to promote cycling. A modern Sport Science Centre will be setup in Kalaburagi to provide specialised services in the Kalyana-Karnataka region.

New women's hostels and old-age homes to be set up

BENGALURU
Responding to the increasing demand for accommodation among working women, four new working women's hostels with a capacity of 100 each will be set up in Bengaluru. Assistance will be provided to establish two old-age homes for women with a capacity of 100 each for destitute persons belonging to minority communities. Besides, ₹5 crore will be provided to establish comprehensive geriatric palliative care units at a cost of ₹50 lakh each in 10 old-age homes run by Christian institutions to provide healthcare services for senior citizens.

Govt. plans to digitise healthcare processes

BENGALURU
Under the Digital Health Programme, the government plans to digitise several healthcare processes, including digitising registers maintained by field health staff through the Samasta mobile application, enabling UPI-based payments at health centres, establishing teleradiology services, among others.

A first-of-its-kind pedestrian walkway on ORR, new IRR find mention in Budget

The State govt. has also allowed the new corporations to mobilise resources for development works through 'municipal bonds' based on their balance sheets

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

The Outer Ring Road Companies' Association will sponsor a 9-km pedestrian walkway along the metro viaduct on the ORR at an estimated cost of ₹160 crore. FILE PHOTO

Bengaluru city has once again got ₹7,000 crore in the 2026-27 Budget presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday, the same as previous year.

While a major chunk of these funds, ₹4,000 crore, will go to Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) to fund big ticket projects like tunnel roads, the remaining ₹3,000 crore will be divided between the five new city corporations and other parastatals like Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), sources said.

The government has also allowed the new corporations to mobilise resources for development works through "municipal bonds" based on their balance sheets. The method will enable corporations to raise bonds linked to a revenue source or an escrow account. Bonds carry at least 2% lower interest than bank loans.

While the focus remains on big ticket infrastructure projects, including a new Intermediate Ring Road (IRR) connecting Nelamangala, Tavarekere and Bidadi, the Budget also stresses on several pedestrian facilities in the city, including the first-of-its-kind 9-km pedestrian walkway on Outer Ring Road (ORR), entirely sponsored by Outer Ring Road Companies' Association (ORRCA).

Revival

The construction of the IRR, which had been dropped earlier, has been revived. The project will be taken up using the financial resources of the Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA) and local planning authorities.

However, there is no clarity on whether BMRDA will widen an existing road and rename it as the IRR or construct a new one. The announcement comes amid the government's plan to develop India's first and largest artificial intelligence (AI)-powered integrated township in Bidadi. Two major roads- the Major Arterial Road (part of Peripheral Ring Road-2) and the NICE Ring Road- run parallel to the proposed project.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC) would be completed within four years, contradicting Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar who recently set a year and a half deadline. The Chief Minister also mentioned the short tunnel and rotary flyover between Hebbal and Mehkri Circle at a cost of ₹2,250 crore, to be funded by the BDA.

The ORRCA will sponsor a 9-km pedestrian walkway along the metro viaduct on the ORR at an estimated cost of ₹160 crore.

The announcement comes even as the B-SMILE prepares to float tenders for the facelift of the 17.1-km stretch of ORR and Namma Metro line on ORR will be operational by the end of 2027.

V. Ravichandar, civic evangelist, said the walkway along the metro viaduct is a "shot in the dark", and its utility would be known once the metro was operational.

The ₹500 crore allocation for BSRP in the State Budget is in addition to the ₹500 crore announced by the Union government in the Union Budget 2026-27 earlier this year. SUDHAKARA JAIN

State govt. allocates ₹500 crore for suburban rail project

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Activists say the allocation is insufficient to accelerate the delayed suburban rail project

The Karnataka government has allocated ₹500 crore in the State Budget for the long-delayed Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP), Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced on Friday. The allocation comes in addition to the ₹500 crore announced by the Union government in the Union Budget 2026-27 earlier this year, officials from Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (KRIDE) said.

In his Budget speech, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that land acquisition for Corridor-2, connecting Benniganahalli and Chikkabanavara, has already been completed and construction works were currently under way. He set a deadline of December 2030.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a KRIDE official said, "Since the project is a 50:50 joint venture between the State and the Centre, the State government has now allocated ₹500 crore in the Budget, while the Union government had announced ₹500 crore in the Union Budget presented in February 2026."

However, activists said the allocation was insufficient to accelerate the delayed suburban rail project. Rajkumar Dugar, founder of the citizens' group Citizens for Citizens (C4C), said that the State government's allocation did not reflect strong commitment to the project. "Just ₹500 crore at this stage does not show great interest from the State government. The Chief Minister has not spoken about Corridor-1, which is the most important corridor and has been ignored," he told *The Hindu*. The Corridor-1, also known as the Sampige Line, is a 41.4-km stretch connecting KSR Bengaluru City to Devanahalli via Yelahanka and includes 15 stations. According to Mr. Dugar, the corridor was crucial for Bengaluru's connectivity, and it was an important stretch that connects airport and should be prioritised.

Mr. Siddaramaiah announced that Bengaluru's metro network was expected to expand by 41 km by the end of 2026, despite the relatively slow progress of ongoing construction works on the upcoming Pink and Blue lines of Namma Metro.

The proposed expansion includes the Pink Line corridor between Kalena Agrahara and Tavarekere (21.26 km) and the Blue Line stretch from Silk Board Junction to K.R. Pura (19.75 km).

Officials from Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) said the Pink Line was expected to open in phases. A 7.5-km elevated stretch was likely to be operational by May 2026, while the entire underground corridor was expected to be completed by December 2026.

According to the BMRCL officials, for the Blue Line, the K.R. Pura-Silk Board Junction section (19.75 km) was projected to open by December 2026. The remaining sections would follow in phases, with the Hebbal-Airport stretch (27.44 km) likely to open by June 2027, and the K.R. Pura-Hebbal section (11 km) by December 2027.

Proposal to rename Victoria Hospital takes doctors and patients by surprise

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Established on December 8, 1900, Victoria hospital was founded by George Curzon, the then Viceroy of India, and Maharani Kempananjammani of Mysore. FILE PHOTO

The State Budget's proposal to rename the 125-year-old Victoria Hospital after socialist leader Shantaveri Gopala Gowda has caught doctors and patients off guard.

One of the city's most prominent public healthcare institutions, Victoria Hospital serves as a major referral tertiary care facility. Established on December 8, 1900, the hospital was founded by George Curzon, the then Viceroy of India, and Maharani Kempananjammani of Mysore. The institution was set up to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria and to strengthen public health infrastructure in the aftermath of the 1898 plague outbreak.

No prior information

Doctors at the hospital said they had no prior information about the proposal until it was announced in the Budget. Patients too appeared surprised, with some noting that the hospital's long-standing name would likely remain in common use.

"Even if the name changes, people will still find it easier to remember it as Victoria Hospital," said a patient at the facility.

Minister for Medical Education Sharan Prakash Patil said the decision to rename the hospital followed representations made by some associations to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. "This is a tribute to the socialist leader," he said.

Robotics and AI campus to come up at IISc soon

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The announcement was made by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in his Budget speech in Bengaluru on Friday. FILE PHOTO

Bengaluru is set to get a new 'BRAINz'. A robotics and AI campus soon to be set up at IISC's AI and Robotics Technology Park (ART-Park) in collaboration with ISRO and KEONICS. It will be known as Bangalore Robotics and AI innovation Zone, or, in short, BRAINz. The announcement was made by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during his Budget speech.

The other AI-related announcements include a Center of Excellence for AI at IIIT, Raichur at a cost of ₹5 crore and two in Bengaluru in collaboration with the Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms and NASSCOM, at a total cost of ₹16 crore.

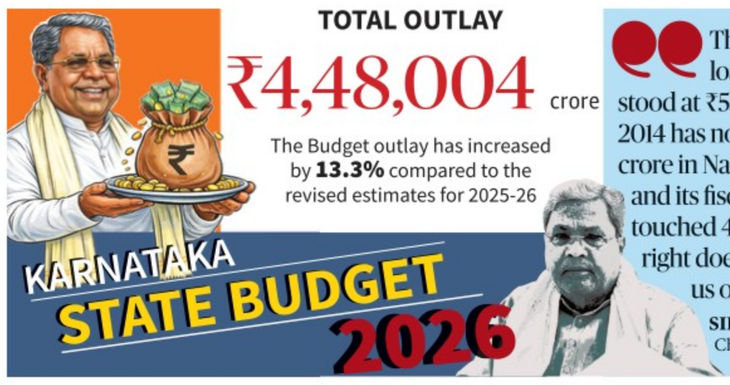
In the context of fear of job losses and other potential disruptions due to AI, the Chief Minister, in his introductory speech, acknowledged the rapid developments in AI and the way it was transforming global production systems.

"Innovations in science and technology are increasingly shaping the trajectory of our State. In this context, I am presenting this Budget with the sense of responsibility and foresight that we must move forward with the resolve to turn "fire into light"," he said. Bengaluru is currently ranked 5th in the world's top 50 cities in the field of AI and Big Data, as per the Global Start-up Ecosystem Report 2025, published by Start-up Genome.

Ten crore was announced for the implementation of the first phase of the State's Quantum Road Map, which according to Mr. Siddaramaiah, would train and develop high-quality human resources required in the quantum technology sector over five years.

The ₹1,000 crore Quantum Mission was launched in July 2025 by Mr. Siddaramaiah at the Quantum India Summit held in Bengaluru. The mission is to transform the State into a $20 billion quantum economy by 2035, create 10,000 high-skilled jobs and establish the State as the 'quantum capital of Asia'.

A super 100 industry academia adoption programme in collaboration with KDEM, an accelerator programme for start-ups through K-Combinator, plug and play LEAP labs by KEONICS in second and third tier cities such as Hubballi, Kalaburagi, Hosakote, and Mysuru and a drone testing facility in Chickballapur district are some of the other announcements.



"The Centre's cumulative loan burden that had stood at ₹53.11 lakh crore before 2014 has now touched ₹218 lakh crore in Narendra Modi's regime and its fiscal deficit too has touched 4.4 per cent. What moral right does BJP have to question us on State borrowings?

SIDDARAMAIAH, Chief Minister

"This is a Budget that reminds us of the proverb 'borrow and feast.' Over the past three years alone, this government has loaded ₹4.39 lakh crore of debt on the shoulders of the people of Karnataka

R. ASHOK, Leader of the Opposition in Assembly

"In his pursuit to present the record 17th Budget, the Chief Minister has pushed the State's economy into disarray. People are now being pushed into a permanent debt trap through this disastrous Budget

H. D. KUMARASWAMY, Union Minister and JD (S) leader

Karnataka model of development: '11G Economic Model'

- **Guarantee Economy:** Karnataka on the path to welfare and gender equality
- **Good Public Education:** Strong public education for inclusive growth
- **Good Health to All:** Comprehensive healthcare for a healthy Karnataka
- Grassroots Economy: Agriculture, rural development and welfare programmes
- **Good Governance:** Citizen-friendly administration
- **Gig Economy:** Labour welfare programmes
- **Geographical Equality:** Removal of regional disparities
- **Global Trade Economy:** Growth in trade and industrial development
- **Globe-trotting Economy:** Tourism-driven economic development
- **Green Economy:** Environment-friendly economic activities, including renewable energy
- **Growing Urban Economy:** Sustainable urban-centric economic expansion

INBRIEF

Development authorities for Kukke, Kollur temples

Development authorities will be set up for Kukke Shree Subrahmanya temple in Dakshina Kannada district and Kollur Shri Mookambika temple in Udupi district to improve the infrastructure of these major pilgrimage centres. The two temples are among the State's highest revenue-generating shrines managed by the Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Department. The government will renovate or reconstruct its guest houses at pilgrimage centres outside the State, including Varanasi, Mantralaya, Srisailam, and Tulajapura, to improve facilities for devotees from Karnataka.

For Vaishno Devi pilgrims

One-time financial assistance of ₹5,000 to be given to pilgrims from the State visiting the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi temple in Jammu and Kashmir. The assistance will be provided through the Muzrai Department, with a grant of ₹5 crore earmarked for the scheme. The amount will be transferred directly to beneficiaries through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. Moreover, to revitalise 259 temple kalyanis (sacred water tanks) under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions Department over a period of three years, the 'Jala Nidhi Kalyani Rejuvenation Scheme' will be implemented, with ₹5 crore allocated for the project.

Organic push for Pandavapura taluk

The State Budget has said that an authorised organic certification system will be developed in Pandavapura taluk to promote organic farming in this agrarian taluk located in the Cauvery basin. The Budget has said that the intention of such a move was to bring the Pandavapura taluk of Mandya district under organic cultivation. This taluk, which is located in the sugar bowl of the state's southern region, is already seeing efforts by several farmers to promote organic jaggery. Access to the organic jaggery is expected to provide a platform for export of chemical free produce.

Competitive exam training

To support students preparing for competitive examinations, four residential schools will be developed as Centers of Excellence to provide coaching for K-CET, JEE and NEET examinations for selected meritorious PUC students studying in Minority Residential Schools. In addition, special CET, JEE and NEET training will be provided to students of 20 residential schools. The government has also proposed to establish learning centres and citizen service centres in select Waqf properties. These centres will be open to students of all communities.

Karnataka's agri sector clocks a robust growth of 9.1%, up from previous years

The State Budget has set a target of disbursing interest-free agricultural loans to the tune of ₹30,000 crore to 38 lakh farmers

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

Karnataka's agriculture sector has registered a robust growth rate of 9.1% in 2025-26, bolstered by a conducive environment, including good monsoon. The rate stood at 4% in 2024-25 and was in the negative (-4.9%) in 2023-24. The subsequent good monsoon seasons marked by rich harvests have contributed to a healthy growth rate of the sector.

However, agricultural experts insist that this healthy growth rate would not mean much to farmers unless there are schemes to ensure they become beneficiaries of it.

Agricultural experts insist that this healthy growth rate would not mean much to farmers unless there are schemes to ensure they become beneficiaries of it. FILE PHOTO

"The need of the hour is to take measures to ensure that the benefits of growth reach farmers," said noted agricultural economist Dr. T.N. Prakash Kammaradi. "It can happen only when there is a system for ensuring assured prices to their crops and proper market linkages. This can be done only through positive interventions at the post-production stage," he observed.

The State Budget has set a target of disbursing interest-free agricultural loans to the tune of ₹30,000 crore to 38 lakh farmers.

The government has disbursed interest-free loans to the tune of ₹22,000 crore to 25 lakh farmers till February 2026, as against the target of disbursing ₹28,000 crore loan to 37 lakh farmers in 2025-26.

Eco-friendly practices

The State Budget has announced a few schemes to support eco-friendly agricultural practices, along with measures to strengthen the initiatives to back cultivation of millets.

The Budget has proposed the *Vasudhamruta* programme to promote eco-friendly and sustainable agricultural practices by enhancing the organic carbon content of soil along with its physical, chemical, and biological properties. The programme will be implemented over the next three years. Similarly, the *Sasya Sanjeevini* scheme has been announced to identify pests and diseases at an early stage and to provide timely advise to farmers on control measures such as the use of eco-friendly bio-control agents and bio-pesticides, along with other safer control measures.

The Budget has proposed to strengthen the Millet Hub, which is being established to promote millets and organic produce in the State. The hub, which had been announced in the previous Budget, will now be developed into a self-sustaining institution.

The Agriculture Department's *Raitha Kare Kendra* (Farmer Call Centre) is set to be upgraded using AI technology to provide farmers quick access to reliable information on weather, markets etc.

To fight the menace of spurious farm inputs, the Budget has announced constitution of a State-level advisory panel to recommend measures to fight the supply of spurious, unsafe, or defective seeds and pesticides to farmers, and to curb the sale of agricultural inputs at prices exceeding market rates.

1.16 lakh hectares of land to be brought under irrigation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

75 irrigation works amounting to ₹8,045 crore will be implemented in several river basins. FILE PHOTO

The State Budget has proposed to prioritise the completion of 37 ongoing schemes with an aim to bring 1.16 lakh hectares of land under irrigation. The proposed works include 12 irrigation projects, 22 tank-filling schemes, and extension, repair, and modernisation projects that are nearing completion.

The Budget further stated that 75 irrigation works amounting to ₹8,045 crore will be implemented in the Krishna, Cauvery, Godavari, and other river basins.

Describing the dismissal of petitions filed by Tamil Nadu by the Supreme Court with regard to the Mekedatu balancing reservoir project as a "significant legal victory" for Karnataka, the Budget says that a revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) along with a proposal for forest clearance will be submitted shortly to the Centre. It states that the remaining 18.73-km-long canal works in the second phase of the Yettinahole Comprehensive Drinking Water Project will be completed shortly. It says that the land acquisition process for increasing the height of Almatti Dam from 519.6 m to 524.256 m will commence this year.

The Budget has reiterated that the replacement of 33 dilapidated gates of the Tungabhadra Dam with new gates will be completed before the onset of monsoon.

New bodies for the uplift of deprived communities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced the formation of Karnataka Adivasi Development Corporation for the upliftment of some of the most backward among tribal communities, including Irula, Soliga, Jenukuruba, Kadukuruba, Kudiya, Siddi, and other vulnerable communities living in and around the forest fringes.

He announced that a Scheduled Tribes Commission will be established to hear their grievances and issues. Separately, the Chief Minister set aside ₹100 crore for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Development Corporation.

In the year 2026-27, a total of ₹44,632 crore has been provided under Karnataka Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP).

Mr. Siddaramaiah announced four KREIS residential schools with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) curriculum, to be named after Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the places visited by him at Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Belagavi, and Kolar.

The Budget announced a high-level committee led by the Chief Minister to oversee the implementation of Backward Classes programmes, employment and educational quotas.

CM proposes human-animal conflict mitigation programme for next 5 years

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA/BENGALURU

Taking note of recent incidents of human-animal conflict in the State, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in his Budget, has proposed the Karnataka Man-Animal Conflict Mitigation Programme with a total outlay of ₹1,500 crore for the next five years. The statement has gained significance in the light of recent deaths in elephant attacks in parts of Chikkamagaluru and Hassan districts.

The Chief Minister's statement has gained significance in the light of recent deaths in elephant attacks in parts of Chikkamagaluru and Hassan districts. FILE PHOTO

Mr. Siddaramaiah, stated that the government spent ₹1,044 crore over the last three years to mitigate the conflict.

The proposed mitigation programme is expected to include the soft release centre, installation of railway barricades and other measures to avoid the conflicts.

In a bid to increase green cover, improve air quality, protect wildlife, and raise tourist footfall in the State, Mr. Siddaramaiah, in his Budget announced a slew of measures.

With regard to afforestation activities, the Chief Minister said, "In accordance with the National Forest Policy, priority will be given to districts having less than 10% forest cover, including Kalyana Karnataka districts in the State, and afforestation activities will be carried out in 75,000 hectares. For this, a total of ₹150 crore will be allocated, including ₹50 crore from Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB)".

Siddaramaiah announced the setting of 15 new continuous ambient air quality monitoring centres to further strengthen air quality monitoring in the State.

New academy for Havyaka dialect, funds for publishing works of Kannada poets

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in his Budget, has announced setting up the Havyaka Bhasha Academy, a chair in the name of Prof. U.R. Ananthamurthy, a project to showcase great poets and writers of Kannada to children, and publishing books to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Dalit literature movement, among others.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presenting the State Budget at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Havyaka, a dialect of Kannada, is spoken by Havyaka Brahmins in the coastal and Malnad region of Karnataka and Kasaragod in Kerala. The academy will be a new addition to the list of academies in the State. Earlier, the government had constituted an academy for Arebhashe, also a dialect of Kannada, the Tulu Sahitya Academy, the Beary Sahitya Academy, and the Konkani Sahitya Academy. The announcement of Havyaka Academy was welcomed by the community on social media platforms.

The CM said that the Karnataka Sahitya Academy will publish the works of poets including Pampa, Ranna, Janna, Basavanna and other Sharanas, Kanakadasa, Purandara Dasa, Lakhsmisha, Sanchi Honnamma, and writers of modern days like Kuvempu, Shivarama Karanatha, and Devanur Mahadeva, among others, with colour pictures, particularly for children. Similarly, he announced the publishing of works of Dalit writers to mark the 50th anniversary of the Dalit literature movement. He has earmarked ₹1 crore for the purpose. The Budget proposes to earmark ₹5 crore for the Bengaluru Hubba and another ₹2 crore for Janapada Sangama, a cultural event.

The CM proposed to bring out a book on nameless freedom fighters of Karnataka, including those who served dreadful punishments in the Andaman Islands.

New scheme to commission solar and EV charging infra

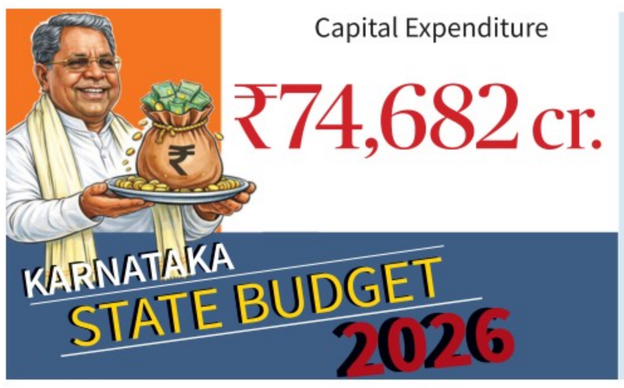
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government will implement a new scheme called 'Mukhya Mantri Saura Krishi Yojane' under the KUSUM-C model, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced while presenting the Budget on Friday. The scheme aims to commission solar power plants with a total capacity of 3,000 MW across Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation (KPTCL) subcentres under the Renewable Energy Service Company model, at an estimated cost of ₹10,500 crore.

The objectives of the KUSUM-C scheme, initiated by the Union government, are to enable farmers to generate solar energy, shift grid-connected agricultural pumps to solar power, reduce reliance on conventional electricity, and sell surplus power back to the grid.

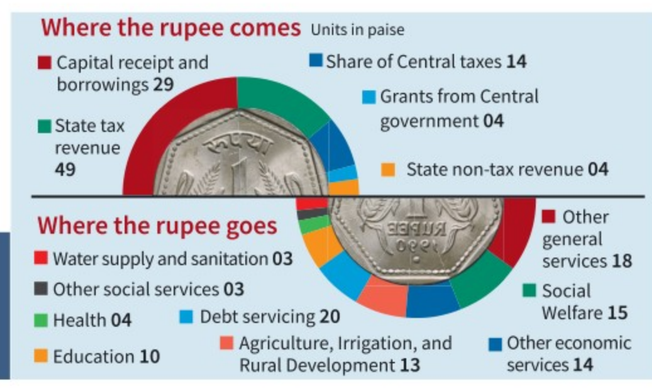
Under the KUSUM-C framework, decentralised feeder solarisation of irrigation pumps is under way, with projects totalling 2,777 MW planned for the current year. To strengthen the transmission network, KPTCL added 100 new sub-stations in 2025-26, with another 100 planned for 2026-27. An additional 2,000 MWh BESS will be installed at Huliyur, Pavagada, and Kushtagi, at an estimated cost of ₹3,400 crore, to manage peak demand effectively, the CM said.

Electric mobility is being promoted, with plans to set up 1,250 public EV charging stations under the PM-E Drive scheme, supported by ESCOMs, at a cost of ₹777 crore. To encourage start-ups in the renewable energy sector, the State will establish an Incubation Centre in collaboration with IIM Bangalore, IISc, and the University of New South Wales (Australia), at a cost of ₹20 crore.



Capital Expenditure

₹74,682 cr.



Gross allocation (Total demand) 2026-2027 — Allocation 2026-2027 / Allocation 2025-2026

Education	10%	10%	Urban Development and Housing	5%	5%	Public Works	2%	3%
Women and Child Development	7%	8%	Home and Transport	5%	5%	Food and Civil Supplies	2%	2%
Energy	6%	6%	Health and Family Welfare	4%	4%	Agriculture and Horticulture	2%	2%
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj	6%	6%	Revenue	4%	4%	Animal Husbandry and Fisheries	1%	1%
Irrigation	5%	5%	Social Welfare	4%	4%	Others	37%	35%

Revised Estimates for 2025-26

Total expenditure	Revenue expenditure	State's own taxes	State's own taxes
₹3,95,307 crore	₹3,02,851 crore	₹1,93,100 crore	₹1,93,100 crore
down from ₹4,09,549 crore	down from ₹3,11,739 crore	down from ₹2,08,100 crore	down from ₹2,08,100 crore

Capex slows as committed expenses balloon and revenue takes a hit

Karnataka pins hopes on raising its own tax revenue and increasing borrowing to push capital expenditure

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government will have a lot of balancing act to do between ballooning committed expenditure and reduction in revenue receipts, even as it pins hopes on increasing the State's own tax revenue and increase borrowing to push capital expenditure.

"The capital expenditure growth this year will be slow because of the pressure on the revenue receipts. The State's power to raise revenue is limited. Compared to 2025-26, when the capital expenditure grew by 35%, it will be slow in 2026-2027," a government source said.

The capital expenditure for 2026-27 has been pegged at ₹74,782 crore, a modest rise from ₹71,336 crore in 2025-26. The capital expenditure in 2024-25 was ₹55,877 crore.

Retiring employees

According to sources, 2026-27 will witness a large pool of government employees retiring from service, adding to a burden of about ₹4,000 crore while the government's recruitment drive to hire for 56,432 posts is set to add about ₹3,000 crore to ₹4,000 crore to the revenue expenditure.

Administrative expenses of running government offices across the State itself cost between ₹4,000 crore and ₹4,500 crore while expenditure on salary and pension come close to ₹1.33 lakh crore.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during the presentation of the State Budget at the Vidhana Soudha, in Bengaluru on Friday. ANI

Debt servicing

The government, which borrowed close to ₹1.16 lakh crore in 2025-26, is set to borrow ₹1.32 lakh crore in 2026-27. The debt servicing is ₹35,316 crore, a growth of 33.4% over 2025-26 revised estimates. The interest payment for 2026-27 is estimated to be ₹53,332 crore. As the State's overall debt is increasing, the share of debt servicing is projected to increase significantly in the coming year. The fiscal deficit is estimated to be ₹97,449 crore in 2026-27 as against ₹90,428 crore in 2025-26.

"When revenue space is limited, committed expenditure has to be taken care of first," said government sources. The guarantee schemes will receive about ₹51,599 crore this year, and according to sources, it is difficult to cut many scheme-based committed expenditures. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah defended higher borrowing, and said that every government had raised loans, and that he too had raised loans in his last term. "The fiscal deficit and total liabilities are within the limits prescribed by the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act."

The rising committed expenditure comes at a time when the revenue to State has taken a hit by about ₹15,000 crore from GST rationalisation and cess making way for tax on sin and luxury goods, about ₹5,000 crore from Jal Jeevan Mission and about ₹3,000 crore from anticipated mining tax, the bill for which is pending with the President for assent.

Hopes for future

While the State is anticipating ₹2.20 lakh crore in State taxes, it is expecting ₹63,050 crore as its share of Central taxes and ₹16,000 crore in grants from the Centre. The non-tax revenue has been estimated to be ₹16,000 crore, down from ₹17,500 crore in 2025-26. Overall, the revenue receipts is estimated to be ₹3.15 lakh crore, up from ₹2.77 lakh crore in 2025-26.

On the other hand, the State government is hoping to raise more money from the mining sector if the President gives assent to the Karnataka (Mineral Rights and Mineral Bearing Land) Tax Bill, 2024.

The State government understands the potential of raising revenue in the mining sector, and once the bill is accepted, the sector has potential to bring in close to ₹18,000 crore this year through a one-time settlement, royalties, and taxes. It is also hoping that revenue from the Stamps and Registration Department will pick up this after the slow-down in 2025-26 owing to e-khata and other issues. "We are hoping to get about ₹5,000 crore through transactions that have been deferred or delayed."

The Excise Department, which is likely to end up collecting close to ₹42,000 crore by the end of 2025-26, is expected to perform well, though officials acknowledged the rise in revenues was due to the increased cost of liquor and not the increase in consumption. The auction of over 500 excise licences, which is projected to fetch the government about ₹1,000 crore, is also among the avenues the government is considering. Currently, the matter is in court.

Revenue deficit to stay

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The revenue deficit – mostly owing to funding for guarantees – is likely to be around till 2029-30 due to the reduced revenue flow caused by GST rationalisation.

According to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the hope was to achieve revenue surplus by the end of 2026-27, but it will now have to wait.

While the revenue deficit was expected to be ₹19,262 crore, it is estimated to be around ₹22,957 crore in 2026-27.

In 2024-25, the revenue deficit was around ₹27,354 crore.

Karnataka's GSDP expected to grow at 8.10% as against India's GDP growth of 7.4%

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The agriculture and industry sectors recorded growth over the previous year while the services sector reported a marginal decline even as Karnataka's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is expected to grow at 8.10% as against India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 7.4%. Karnataka's per capita income at ₹4.33 lakh is 97% higher than the all India average of ₹2.19 lakh.

The per capita income in Karnataka has registered a growth of 12.2% over 3.86 lakh in 2024-2025. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Bengaluru Urban has the highest per capita income at ₹8.55 lakh

Good monsoon during this year and anticipated growth of meat production has contributed to the agriculture sector's growth by 9.1% compared to 7.0% in 2024-25, said the Economic Survey of Karnataka 2025-26, released here on Friday. The per capita income in Karnataka has registered a growth of 12.2% over ₹3.86 lakh in 2024-25.

While Bengaluru Urban has the highest per capita income at ₹8.55 lakh, Kalaburagi has the lowest at ₹1.44 lakh.

Manufacturing (7%) and electricity (7.5%) contributed mainly to the industrial sector's growth by 6.7% in 2025-26 compared to the sector's growth of 4.1% in 2024-25.

However, the services sector is expected to grow by 8.1% in 2025-26 compared to 8.4% in 2024-25. The survey noted that growth in the service sector is mainly due to expansion of IT-related services, hotel and restaurants, public administration, and other services.

The survey noted that between 2024-25 and 2025-26, the share of agriculture and industry in Karnataka's GSDP declined marginally; the contribution of agriculture decreased from 11.02% to 10.77% and contribution of industry declined from 19.82% to 19.36%. The services sector, the largest contributor to the GSDP, recorded a slight increase from 69.16% to 69.87% during the same period.

Hot-cooked meals to resume under Mathru Poorna

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Acknowledging that take-home-rations were not as effective as Mathru Poorna Yojane, under which hot-cooked meals were provided to pregnant as well as lactating women at anganwadi centres, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that the scheme will be re-implemented.

The Mathru Poorna scheme was introduced in 2017 during the previous Siddaramaiah-led government. "This scheme was helpful in preventing anaemia and malnutrition in women. Subsequently, with emphasis on take-home-rations instead of hot-cooked meals, the scheme has deviated from its original purpose. Taking note of this, the scheme of providing hot-cooked meal in anganwadi centres every day will be restored," he said in the Budget speech.

The Chief Minister also announced construction of anganwadi buildings in 1,668 available sites across the districts of Kalyana Karnataka region. In the 50th year of Integrated Child Development Services, Mr. Siddaramiah also announced the formation of a high-level committee for comprehensive reforms of anganwadi centres.

The Karnataka Budget has set aside ₹5 crore to formulate and implement a dedicated programme to widen the access to higher education for children of former devadasis and provide necessary financial assistance to girl children for undertaking self-employment and income-generating activities.

The Chief Minister also announced that the incentive being paid to former devadasis, individuals from gender minority communities and beneficiaries of Chethana and Dhanashree schemes will be enhanced from the present ₹30,000 to ₹45,000 for engaging in income-generating activities.

The devadasi survey report had recommended a special package for the former devadasi families for their rehabilitation and special student scholarships for children belonging to former devadasi families.

The survey of gender minorities recommended 1% reservation in private sector jobs for people from gender minorities in the State and establishment of a gender minority welfare board. Akkai Padmashali, gender and sexual minority rights activist, said that the Budget reflected "indifferent attitude of a government that lacks sensitivity towards communities".

The Gruha Lakshmi scheme will see an allocation of ₹28,608 crore this year, a sum that has remained unchanged for the third consecutive year.

Questions posed over AB-ArK

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Although the State government has retained its health sector allocation at 4% of the total Budget, amounting to ₹17,817 crore, this year's Budget places a stronger emphasis on improving health infrastructure, expanding critical services and strengthening digital health systems.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced a ₹900-crore grant for infrastructure development in the health sector. The Budget earmarks ₹45 crore to strengthen trauma care services across district and taluk hospitals. Free insulin pens have been proposed for children up to 18 years with Type-1 diabetes.

The Budget has proposed revising treatment package rates under Ayushman Bharat - Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK). The existing 2018 treatment package rates will be updated by adopting the Centre's Health Benefit Package (HBP)-2022 rates. An additional ₹400 crore has been earmarked.

According to industry estimates, adopting the revised package rates would require an additional budgetary support of nearly ₹1,200 crore. Despite multiple discussions between private hospital representatives, the Health Department and senior officials, the proposal submitted by the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust, the nodal agency for the scheme, is pending with the Finance Department.

Pavan Kumar Patil, a member of the KPME Act expert committee on price fixation for government health schemes, said, "With the overall allocation remaining largely unchanged, it suggests there may be no immediate fiscal provision to support the implementation of the revised HBP-2022 packages. The proposal appears to be more of an eye-wash."

However, Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary (Health), said the revised packages would be implemented by converging funds from multiple schemes, including the Yashasvini scheme, the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, and the Employees' State Insurance Corporation. "For beneficiaries who are also covered under Yashasvini and other schemes, available funds will be utilised. This convergence will help ensure better access," he said.

VIEWPOINT

NARENDAR PANI
Economist

Short of crossing the red line

Fiscal deficit to GSDP ratio in 2026-27 is expected to be 2.95% against the recommended upper limit of 3%

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's Budget reflects the quiet pressures that are building on Karnataka's economy. The immediate sign of this pressure is the lower revised estimates of revenue in 2025-26, ensuring that capital expenditure has been pushed below budgeted levels.

The Chief Minister has not let this dampen his plans for 2026-27. A part of the increased expenditure the Budget proposes will come from the higher share of central taxes recommended by the 16th Finance Commission, but he has gone further and significantly stepped up market borrowings. He has stopped just short of crossing the red line that has been set for States for their fiscal deficit, but only by the skin of his teeth. The ratio of fiscal deficit to GSDP in 2026-27 is expected to be 2.95% against the recommended upper limit of 3%.

The Budget attributes the decline in revenue primarily to the rationalisation of GST. As much of 43% of the State's own tax revenue comes from GST and the reduction in the rates on a range of commodities did have an immediate dampening effect on Karnataka's revenues. This dip was expected to be temporary as the lower prices to the consumer were expected to boost demand. As one of the States with the highest per capita income in the country, Karnataka would have been expected to see an increase in sales and hence higher GST collections. That this has not happened points to an underlying imbalance in Karnataka's economy.

Karnataka has become increasingly dependent on foreign direct investment for its growth. As the Chief Minister pointed out in his Budget speech, during the first half of 2025-26 Karnataka accounted for 26.7% of the total FDI equity inflows into the country. This investment is in high technology areas with low levels of employment per unit of output. Thus, even as income rises rapidly, employment does not keep pace. And much of Karnataka's workforce does not have the educational requirements to be among the main beneficiaries of this growth. With substantial sections of the population being excluded from growth there is limited increase in demand. This could ensure a continued pressure on GST collections.

The flip side of this unequal growth is that it increases the political pressures for transfers of welfare to those who have not benefitted from the high growth rates. This has ensured that the Budget leaves the five guarantees untouched. It has also sought to address the MLAs' concern for development of their constituencies by listing specific local projects to be undertaken across the State. The political dimension is quite explicit in the listing of Shramika Residential Schools by the Assembly constituency in which they are located.

Beyond the immediate political necessities, the Budget points to two routes to address the regional imbalance. First, it stresses the need to make Karnataka's growth less Bengaluru centric. It seeks to develop Mysuru as a second IT hub to decongest Bengaluru, and to industrialise tier 2 and tier 3 cities. These efforts will not be without their difficulties. Earlier efforts to develop Mysuru as an alternative IT centre have not quite worked. IT professionals and companies tend to agglomerate in cities that have better access to the world economy. Taking other industries to tier 2 and tier 3 cities has also proved to be a formidable task in the past. Even if there is greater success this time around, the plans for these cities also seem to prioritise industries with low levels of employment per unit of output. They may not then offer sufficient employment opportunities for persons in the backward regions of the State.

The second route the Budget takes is to directly benefit the backward regions through the recommendations of the Govind Rao committee report. The effectiveness of the strategy of that report is, however, not beyond debate. It follows a classification of backwardness that is relative. It divides the taluks in the State into four equal groups and treats the last of these groups as most backward. In this approach, no matter how much the worst-off regions of the State develop, there will always be 25% of the taluks that are most backward. It cannot distinguish between taluks that are backward in absolute terms and those that happen to be among the lowest quartile of taluks in the State.

In his 17th Budget, the Chief Minister has reiterated his commitment to stay within the outer limits of fiscal prudence but stops short of developing a cohesive strategy to address the structural strains in Karnataka's economy.

Budget has increased debt burden: Opposition

'In his pursuit of records, Siddaramaiah has thrown the State's economy into disarray'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP leaders staging a protest against the State Budget in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> The 17th Budget presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah does not have a leader's vision but a mere clerical approach
>
> **B.Y. VIJAYENDRA,** BJP State president

The BJP and the JD (S) criticised the State Budget presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday as one that burdened people by increasing pubic debt.

BJP legislators staged a dharna on the premises of Vidhana Soudha with empty vessels, while alleging that all that the Budget had given to people of the State was an empty bowl.

"While he may celebrate the presentation of his 17th Budget, the people of Karnataka are left bearing the burden of its consequences. In his pursuit of records, Mr. Siddaramaiah has thrown the State's economy into disarray," Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy alleged, in a statement.

"One thing is clear: Karnataka's economy is sliding towards a worrying slowdown. Beyond the warnings issued by the CAG and the Reserve Bank, the State now faces a far deeper fiscal risk," he maintained.

"This Budget is harsh on the ears and heavy on the State. Once again, the Chief Minister has chosen to indulge in unnecessary criticism of the Union government."

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok alleged that the Budget had imposed an enormous debt burden on the people of Karnataka while offering little in terms of real development. "The Siddaramaiah government has accumulated nearly ₹4.39 lakh crore in debt, effectively handing the people an empty bowl instead of meaningful development," he said.

BJP State president B. Y. Vijayendra said, "The 17th Budget presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah does not have a leader's vision but a mere clerical approach."

From Page One

Multi-pronged approach to tackle inequalities

Responding to growing unrest among youth over lack of job opportunities, the Budget has proposed to fill 56,432 vacant posts in departments. It also seeks to promote self-employment among youth belonging to tribal and minority communities through the Entrepreneurship Development Scheme, which offers financial aid of 75% or a maximum subsidy of ₹4 lakh to establish food kiosks.

To bridge the gap between education and employable skills and to harness the State's 'demographic dividend', the Budget proposed a skill training academy in Hubballi-Dharwad, an on-line employment exchange for skill-based job opportunities, and the Karnataka Quality Upgradation for Employment and Skills Transformation Project (₹1,386 crore).

It also focused industry-academia collaboration and the strengthening of infrastructure in industrial training institutes.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a key focus area in the Budget with several initiatives aimed at integrating advanced technologies across agriculture, education, governance and start-up ecosystem.

In collaboration with IIT-Dharwad, it has proposed to develop an AI-enabled self-learning digital tutor for around 12.28 lakh students from Classes 8 to 12 (₹5 crore).

About 15 new high-demanded courses, including AI-generated programmes, will be introduced in 11 government polytechnics and engineering colleges in Chitradurga. In addition, modern AI data labs will be established in 60 government colleges in tier-2 and tier-3 cities (₹10 crore) to improve youth employability.

A Centre of Excellence for AI will be set up at IIIT, Raichur, along with two more centres in Bengaluru. It has planned to introduce an AI-based facial recognition attendance system in anganwadis, schools, colleges and hostels across Karnataka.

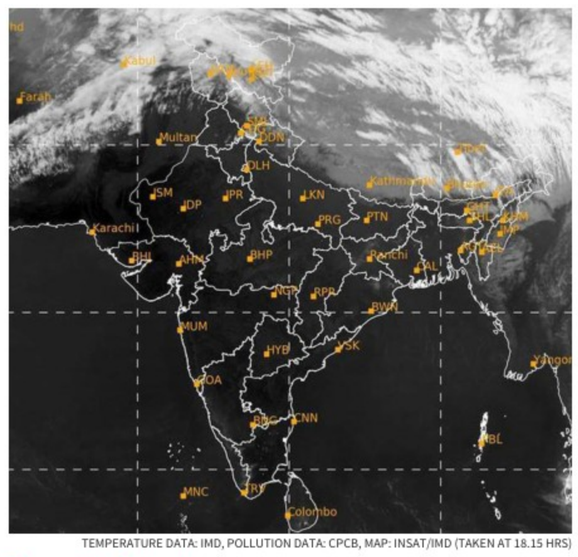
In the 205-page Budget, Mr. Siddaramaiah accused the Centre of "doing injustice" to Karnataka by "disregarding the principles of cooperative federalism".

He said the GST rate restructuring in September last year had reduced the State's revenue collections by ₹10,000 crore this year and could lead to a ₹15,000 crore loss in 2026-27.

The government also announced the creation of three more development corporations, including one for Buddhists, and a separate Commission of Scheduled Tribes.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning & gusty winds likely at isolated places over Odisha. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh and Saurashtra & Kutch. Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over Gujarat, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.4	19.0	Kozhikode	—	35.8	26.7
Ahmedabad	—	36.3	21.4	Kurnool	—	39.6	21.8
Aizawl	—	31.3	13.3	Lucknow	—	32.9	18.6
Allahabad	—	33.4	16.6	Madurai	—	37.6	22.0
Bengaluru	—	34.0	20.3	Mangaluru	—	32.7	23.9
Bhopal	—	35.4	16.4	Mumbai	—	34.6	23.6
Bhubaneswar	—	34.7	23.6	Mysuru	—	34.2	18.0
Chandigarh	—	31.9	16.0	New Delhi	—	34.4	17.0
Chennai	—	35.1	25.2	Patna	—	32.6	20.6
Coimbatore	—	36.2	22.7	Port Blair	—	29.9	22.6
Dehradun	—	30.0	16.1	Puducherry	—	34.0	23.0
Gangtok	—	17.2	13.9	Pune	—	37.7	20.1
Goa	—	32.8	25.0	Raipur	—	37.8	21.6
Guwahati	—	33.6	17.7	Ranchi	—	31.8	16.0
Hubballi	—	37.0	19.0	Shillong	—	25.2	13.0
Hyderabad	—	37.0	19.2	Shimla	—	27.8	17.3
Imphal	—	30.8	12.4	Srinagar	—	24.5	6.6
Jaipur	—	36.0	20.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.0	24.2
Kochi	—	30.8	26.0	Tiruchi	—	37.6	22.0
Kohima	—	23.5	13.9	Vijayawada	—	38.6	20.8
Kolkata	—	32.0	21.7	Visakhapatnam	—	31.5	23.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.33	..54	.36	52	...102	
Bengaluru	.11	..95	.41	...164	...201	
Chennai	...8	..17	..—	70	...106	
Delhi	.25	..47	125	...202	...259	
Hyderabad	...7	...9	.43	...102	...119	
Kolkata	...7	..54	.42	...178	...116	
Lucknow	...6	..27	.24	...233	...135	
Mumbai	...7	..56	.34	78	...107	
Pune	..—	128	.33	...143	...122	
Visakhapatnam	.27	..82	.22	...133	...150	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Angul, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 298 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

KRRS dissatisfied with Budget

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) has expressed dissatisfaction over the State Budget by maintaining that it lacked vision to ensure the development of agriculture and farmers.

In a release, KRRS State president Badagalapura Nagendra expressed concern that only 13% of the budgetary size had been allocated to agriculture and allied sectors on which 63 per cent of State's population was dependent for its livelihood.

He also took exception to the Congress government not taking any measures to implement its prepoll promise of withdrawing anti-cow slaughter legislation and land reforms legislation that had been brought in during the erstwhile BJP regime.

He also expressed dissatisfaction over the the State government not committing itself in the Budget about not enforcing the Electricity Act, Seed Act and Agricultural Policy brought about by the Centre, which he alleged were anti-farmer.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intends purchasing the Schedule Property bearing Site/Plot No. 98, "ADITHYA PARADISE-5", PID No. 150300402000321465 measuring East to West 15.24 meters and North to South 9.14 meters, curved out of Sy. No. 127/20 and Sy. No. 127/22 (Old Sy. No. 127/9) situated at Bellikere Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District., from M/s. Paradise Homes, represented by its Managing Partner Sri. Balakrishna Reddy @ Balireddy, who acquired the Schedule Property through Deed of Declaration dated 16.06.2025 registered as Document No. HSK-1-03937-2025-26 in the office of Sub-Registrar, Bengaluru Rural (Hosakote).

Any person or persons asserting any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the Schedule Property or documents thereof or against the owners or objecting to such purchase by our client, should write to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of issuance of this public notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to the Schedule Property or any part thereof or against the owners, after which period our client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing Site/Plot No. 98, "ADITHYA PARADISE-5", PID No. 150300402000321465 measuring East to West 15.24 meters and North to South 9.14 meters, curved out of Sy. No. 127/20 and Sy. No. 127/22 (Old Sy. No. 127/9) situated at Bellikere Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.,.

East by : Site No. 74,
West by : 9.14 Meters Road,
North by : Site No. 97,
South by : Site No. 99. Place: Bengaluru
Date: 06/03/2026

JYOTHI U L, Advocate
MITHILAW ASSOCIATES, No.426, "Subhadra", 47th Cross, Banshankari 6th Stage 9th Block, Bengaluru 560 060

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, Smt. Sandhya Rani G., W/o Sri. Rakesh Kumar, Aged about 58 Years, Residing at No. 869, 4th Street, Ferns Paradise, Near Total Mall, Doddanekundi, Bangalore East, Bangalore, Aadhaar No. 2229 8936 7347, is the Owner of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property from the above said Owner. All persons having any claim against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at its office **within 7 days from the date of publication hereof**, failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural land **bearing Sy. No.132/6** measuring to an extent of **20 Guntas,** situated at Sulikunte Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, and bounded on the :

East By : Road and Dommasandra Village Boundary;
West By : Land bearing Sy. No.132/2;
North By : Land bearing Sy. No. 132/5;
South By : Land bearing Sy. No.132/2.

Dated this 07-03-2026 at Bangalore
M/S. LEGAL NEXUS
Advocates & Consultants
No. 428, 24th Main, 25th Cross, Sector-2, H.S.R Layout, Bangalore – 560 102.
Phone: 080-65555914,
Mobile: 9945688974; 6360160289.

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
GSTIN: 09AACCU2250P1ZZ CIN: U85310UP2018SGC102425

Tender Notice Invitation Date: 06th March, 2026

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, Lucknow invites tenders on GeM Portal from eligible and qualified Manufacturer/Importer/Authorized Agent for supply of **following Medical Equipment's**. The schedules of Tendering activities are as here under:

Sr. No.	Tender Ref. No. & Date	Items Name	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	Last Date & Submission of Online Bids	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids
1	GEM/2026/B/7290795, Dt: 06-03-2026	Power Generator-DG Set (up to 900 KVA)	10-03-2026 at 04:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow	16-03-2026 up to 12:00 Noon	16-03-2026 at 12:30 PM
2	GEM/2026/B/7291320, Dt: 06-03-2026	CTG Machine	11-03-2026 at 05:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow	16-03-2026 up to 12:00 Noon	16-03-2026 at 12:30 PM
3	GEM/2026/B/7292065, Dt: 06-03-2026	Ophthalmic Ultrasound B-Scan	11-03-2026 at 05:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow	16-03-2026 up to 12:00 Noon	16-03-2026 at 12:30 PM
4	GEM/2026/B/7293994, Dt: 06-03-2026	Multipara Monitor-Low End	11-03-2026 at 04:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow	16-03-2026 up to 12:00 Noon	16-03-2026 at 12:30 PM
5	GEM/2026/B/7320359, Dt: 06-03-2026	Non-Contact Tonometer	11-03-2026 at 03:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow	16-03-2026 up to 12:00 Noon	16-03-2026 at 12:30 PM
6	GEM/2026/B/7321912, Dt: 06-03-2026	Power Generator-DG Set (up to 900 KVA)	10-03-2026 at 04:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow	16-03-2026 up to 11:00 AM	16-03-2026 at 11:30 AM
7	GEM/2026/B/7322344, Dt: 06-03-2026	Power Generator-DG Set (up to 900 KVA)	10-03-2026 at 04:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow	16-03-2026 up to 11:00 AM	16-03-2026 at 11:30 AM
8	GEM/2026/B/7322474, Dt: 06-03-2026	500 mA X-Ray Machine	10-03-2026 at 03:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow	16-03-2026 up to 11:00 AM	16-03-2026 at 11:30 AM
9	GEM/2026/B/7324361, Dt: 06-03-2026	Microscope - Pathological and Research	12-03-2026 at 03:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow	16-03-2026 up to 01:00 PM	16-03-2026 at 01:30 PM

The details of tender notice are given on GeM Portal & UPMSCL website www.upmsc.in. Kindly check GeM Portal & UPMSCL website for any detail & updates. **Managing Director, UPMSCL**
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

KERALA IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
Tender Notice

KIIDC, a Government of Kerala PSU invites offers through two cover e-Tender system from eligible bidders for the following works.
1. Manufacturing, Supply, Installation, Trial Running and commissioning of fully automatic prefiltration system (RO) at Hilly Aqua Packaged Drinking water plant at Kattapana - General Mechanical Work. **(Tender Id: 2026_KIIDC_843517_1)**
2. Placement of New Line at Hilly Aqua Kattapana - Production Line - General Civil Work. **(Tender id: 2026_KIIDC_843493_1)**
Details are available in **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in** and **www.kiidc.kerala.gov.in**
Managing Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public and Financial Institutions and Sellers family members is hereby informed that my client **Sri.Murali.M.Baaladev** is intending to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from the **Mrs.M.Sophia Daniel @ Meera Sophia Daniel and Dr.Daniel Sathya Sheela,** both are residing at No.147, "PREMA" 5th Main Road, 7th Cross, Hampinagar, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560 104.

If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest for the above intended Sale Transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the Documentary Proof substantiating his/her/their objection/ claims/ details at dispute/s within **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of this publication. Failing which my client will proceed to complete the Sale Transaction with the above owners. As if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in respect of the Schedule Property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the House **Property bearing No.147,** situated at M.G.E.S, R.P.C. Layout, previously Railway Line Pipe Line Scheme, Mysore Government Employees House Building Co-operative Society Private Layout, Old Corporation Division No.21, previously it was under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.133(34), Bangalore, now it is coming under the jurisdiction of Greater Bangalore Authority, Bangalore West City Corporation (BWCC), Ward No.133, Bangalore. As per the records of BWCC the Property bearing **No.147, ePID No.2608541454, situated M.G.E.S, Hampinagar, Bangalore,** measuring **East to West: 50-0 Feet or 15.2 Meters and North to South: 30-0 Feet or 9.1 Meters, in all measuring 1500 Square Feet or 139.4 Square Meters,** together with RCC Roofed building with having civic amenities thereon and bounded on the:

East by :: 4th Main Road,
West by :: Site No.136,
North by :: Site No.146,
South by :: Site No.148.

K.SOMASHEKARA
ADVOCATE
Shop No.15, 1st Floor, J.J.Complex, Below Vijayanagar Sub-Registrar Office, Post Office Road, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040. M : 98440 56331.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORATE OF TREASURIES AND ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT
Perasiriyar K Anbazhagan Maaligai,
571, Annasalai, Nanadanam, Chennai - 600 035.

Bids are invited from the **Public Sector Health Insurance Companies** for New Health Insurance Scheme for

1) **Employees** of the Tamil Nadu State Government departments and their eligible family members, and
2) Government **Pensioners** [including spouse] / Family Pensioners of Government of Tamil Nadu.

Sl.	Authority and web portal	Requirement details
1.	Joint Director (NHIS), O/o the DTA, Chennai - 35 **(https://tntenders.gov.in)**	Interested Public Sector Insurance Companies are advised to submit their bids online through **https://tntenders.gov.in** portal

Further notifications and communication will be published only on the website. Public Sector Insurance Companies are advised to regularly check the website for updates.

DIPR/1620/Tender/2026
Joint Director (NHIS)
DTA, Chennai - 600 035.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, my client, Mr.Anil Kumar.M.G S/o.Girayappa, Aged about 42 years, Residing at House No.23, Ground Floor, 4th Cross, 2nd Block, D Group Layout, Lingadheeranahalli, Bangalore-560091, has LOST THE ORIGINAL REGISTERED SALE DEED DATED 28.01.2006, REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO.BLN-1-32300-2005-06, IN BOOK-1, STORED in CD NO.BLND231, IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUB-REGISTRAR, BANGALORE NORTH TALUK, REGISTERED ON 08.03.2006, LOST AT ANDRAHALLI, BANGALORE ON 03.09.2024, BETWEEN 12:00PM TO 03:00PM. A COMPLAINT IS LODGED ONLINE DATED 06.03.2026 VIDE LOST REPORT BEARING NO.2095876/2026, Finders may return the same to the near Police Station or contact the below address.
If any persons, firm, company, Financial institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the below mentioned address in writing within 15 days from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

BHASKAR.M,
ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS,
Office: #782/11, Ground Floor, 17th 'B' main Road 60th Cross, Near Lakshman Rao Skin Clinic, 5th Block, Bhasyam Circle, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010 **Land line:** 080-48520073

OREDA LIMITED
(Under Department of Energy, Government of Odisha)
(CIN No: U35105OD2024SGC045786)
S/59, MANCHESWAR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
Website: www.oredaorissa.com , E mail: ceoreda@oredaorissa.com

Notice No 931 **e-Tender Call Notice** Date: 27-02-2026

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Solar Power Generator (SPG) for Development of Grid-Connected Rooftop Solar Power Projects on Government Buildings under RESCO Model under PM Surya Ghar:Muft Bijli Yojana in the State of Odisha. The Schedule of Events is given below:

Sl. No.	Events	Schedule
1.	Date of publication of RFP on E-procurement Website and OREDA Limited Website	27.02.2026
2.	Due date of submission of pre-bid queries as per the OREDA Limited format	06.03.2026
3.	Date and time of Pre-bid Meeting through virtual mode [link for pre bid meeting]: https://meet.google.com/rcy-jjng-ypy	07.03.2026, Time:4.30 PM
4.	Due date and time for submission of online copies of Bid.	26.03.2026, Time:5:30 PM
5.	Due date and time for submission of hard copies of Bid.	31.03.2026, Time:5:30 PM
6.	Due date and time for the opening of Technical Bid.	04.04.2026, Time:4:00 PM
7.	Due date and time for the opening of Financial Bid.	08.04.2026, Time:4:00 PM
8.	Due date and time for the e-reverse Auction	To be intimated later

The RFP providing requisite details about the bidding process shall be made available on the E-procurement Website (http://www.tenderwizard.com/OREDA) on or before the due date mentioned above. The RFP will also be made available on the OREDA Limited Website (http://www.oredaodisha.com) for viewing purposes only. The Bidders may write to OREDA Limited at the email id-ceoreda@oredaorissa.com, for any additional information, if needed.
Note : OREDA Limited reserves all the right to annual the bidding process and invite fresh Bids without liability or obligation for such invitation and without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer
28001/3/2526 OIPR-28001/28005/1/25-26/0002

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
PALAR BASIN CIRCLE, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI
e-Tender Short Term Notice No.15 PBC / 2025-26 / Dt.06.03.2026
Lumpsum Contract (Two Bid System)

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Superintending Engineer, WRD, Palar Basin Circle, Chepauk, Chennai-5 invites ONLINE tenders under "Two Bid System" for the work in S.No.1 through online for the under mentioned works from the eligible tenderers as prescribed in the website.

Item. No.	Name of Work	Approximate Value put to Tender (including GST) Rs. in Lakh	Last date and time of submission of Tender (as per Server Clock)	Date and time of Tender opening (as per Server Clock)	Period of Completion
1	Dredging the Kosasthalaiyar Backwater area for removal of Charru Mussels (Kaaka Aazhi) from L.S.6300 m to 8000 m in Kattupalli Village and branch channel in Puzhuthivakkam Village of Ponneri Taluk of Thiruvallur District.	2033.00	11.03.2026 upto 14.00 Hrs.	11.03.2026 at 15.00 Hrs.	12 months

The tender document and other details will be available in the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** to enable the tenderers to view and download the e-tender document thro' online at free of cost and submission of Tenders shall be done only through online.

NOTE : i) It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modification uploaded subsequently in website, the same shall be taken into account while submitting tender. **ii)** The Tender Authority does not take any responsibility for the delay/non-submission of tender/non-reconciliation of online payment caused due to non-availability of internet connection, network traffic/holidays or any other reasons. **iii)** Tender may be cancelled at any stage by competent authority. **iv) Cost of EMD made as prescribed in the Pre-Qualification.**

Superintending Engineer, WRD.,
Palar Basin Circle, Chennai-5.
DIPR / 1641/ TENDER / 2026

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED
ANGADI DIVISION
ELCOT Angadi
9th Floor, Sigapi Aachi Building, 18/3, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. https://elcot.tn.gov.in | +91 44 2855 6120 | tenders@elcotangadi.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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Sl. No.	Description	Pre bid Meeting	Last date for submission of e-bids
1.	**Tender No. E-ANGADI-RC-IT02-2026-0001** Printers	16.03.2026, 11.00 AM	21.04.2026, 03.00 PM
2.	**Tender No. E-ANGADI-RC-IT02-2026-0005** Laptop Computers	17.03.2026, 11.00 AM	22.04.2026, 03.00 PM
3.	**Tender No. E-ANGADI-RC-IT02-2026-0002** A1 - Display Monitor, TV & Interactive Displays; A2 - Tablet and Mobile Phone; A3 - Scanners & Plotters; A4 – Video Wall	17.03.2026, 11.00 AM	22.04.2026, 03.00 PM
4.	**Tender No. E-ANGADI-RC-IT02-2026-0003** B1 - UPS Systems & Batteries; B2 – Enterprise Networking Equipment's; B3 - Networking Components	18.03.2026, 11.00 AM	23.04.2026, 03.00 PM
5.	**Tender No. E-ANGADI-RC-IT02-2026-0004** C1 - Storage Devices; C2 - Biometric Systems; C3 - Firewall; C4 – Video Conferencing System	18.03.2026, 03.00 PM	23.04.2026, 03.00 PM

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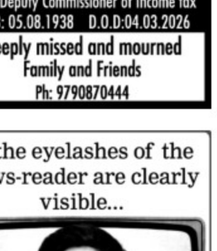
OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY



R SETHURAMAN
Retd. Deputy Commissioner of Income tax
DOB: 05.08.1938 D.O.D:04.03.2026
Deeply missed and mourned
Family and Friends
Ph: 9790870444

If the eyelashes of the news-reader are clearly visible...

Sudha Narayanan
Dec 04, 1943 - Feb 28, 2026

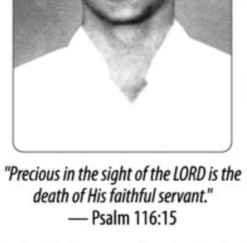
Former Doordarshan newsreader of unflappable spirit and the iconic TV "eyelashes", copywriter extraordinaire, interior design maven, plant-whisperer, suite-ly gracious PG host, a pitch-perfect singer, and arguably the funniest person in the room.

Joyfully remembered by

Smita, Ram, Nikhil, Radhika, her grandchildren, and many loving relatives and friends.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

70TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY



"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His faithful servant."
— Psalm 116:15

In cherished memory of our dear brother
DR. MOHAN SUNDARA RAJ
(07.03.1956 - 23.08.1981)

Son of the Late Dr S.T. Sundara Raj & the Late Mrs Rani Sundara Raj

Forever remembered by
Ranjan David (9843742300)
Ratnakar Sundara Raj (9980549671)
Aaron Jayakar (7338912331)

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Edward S/o Peter Residing at No.20, 3rd Cross, Rayapuram, Chamrajapet Post, Bengaluru-560018 have changed my Name to Edward Peter vide Affidavit dated: 05-03-2026 Sworn Before Notary A.C.Subbu swamy, Bangalore

I, Army No. JC441738A, Rank: SUB, Name: Rajesh Babu.P, S/o Late V. Pooswamy, R/at No. 34, Old Oriental Line, Coromandel Post, Kolar Gold Fields-563118, have changed my mother name from B.Girija to Girija.B and Date of Birth from 04-08-1951 to 04-08-1955 vide affidavit dated 05-03-2026 sworn before Notary N. Srinivasa, K G F.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

In the Court of I Addl. Dist. Judge Guntur, Guntur Dist., Andhra Pradesh
MVOP No: 921 / 2024
Between:
Gudipati Ravi Kiran ...Petitioner
and
Srinivasa Reddy P & Others ...Respondents
To
R-2: Rajesh Transport No.G101, R/o. Adarsh Palace Apartment, 47th Cross, 5th Block, Jaya Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka-560 041, **(Owner of the Bus, Bearing No: NL 01 B 5455**

Please take notice that the above petitioner are filed a claim Petition before the above said court for compensation. The Hon'ble court ordered notice of you (R2) number of times. But the same was returned on you. At last order this publication your ordered to appear before the above court on **17-03-2026** at **10-30** AM, either the person or through advocate other the matter will be decided in your absence as exparte.
Hearing Date : 17-03-2026.

AMARTALURI BABU RAO, G. AHARONU
Advocate for Petitioner, Guntur, Guntur Dist. A.P. Cell: 8328269344

Autumn of a socialist

The BJP has quietly outmanoeuvred Nitish Kumar in Bihar

Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) chief Nitish Kumar is relinquishing his post and stepping aside from active politics. A nominee from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will likely succeed him as Chief Minister. Though the turn of events appears abrupt, it has been in the making for several years, and follows a pattern of the BJP's expansion into newer areas and social groups. Mr. Kumar has oscillated between the BJP and the Congress-led Opposition over the years, and still commands the loyalty of a considerable section of Other Backward Classes (OBC) in the State. At 75, old age had impaired him, and though his decline has been in full public view, he remained in the saddle – a testimony to his political indispensability. In the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) swept 202 of 243 seats, with the BJP emerging as the single largest party with 89 seats against the JD(U)'s 85. The BJP was initially unwilling to declare Mr. Kumar as the NDA's chief ministerial candidate, even while calculating that the alliance could not afford to contest without him. Less than four months after taking oath as Chief Minister for a record tenth time, he filed his Rajya Sabha nomination on March 5, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah by his side. The BJP is navigating a very fine line, trying to gently push Mr. Kumar aside without toppling the apple cart of the social combination that holds various Hindu caste groups together. Any sense of insult to the OBCs can be politically costly; but the party is equally determined to formalise its primacy in Bihar politics, a fact on the ground since at least the 2020 Assembly election, when it won 74 seats to the JD(U)'s 43.

The transition in Bihar also aligns with the four-decade pattern of the BJP's growth. The Hindutva party finds a foothold in new areas and among new social groups through alliances with regional outfits first, then emerges on top, and finally replaces the former ally. In 2020, the BJP already outran the JD(U) in seat tally but swallowed its ambition to keep the coalition intact and Mr. Kumar in place. In 2025, it retained that lead – 89 to 85 – and the arithmetic of the Rajya Sabha vacancy provided the occasion, and a measure of cover, for the inevitable transition. Bihar is the latest instance in this pattern, following the template most recently visible in Maharashtra, where Assembly elections were fought under Eknath Shinde's name but Devendra Fadnavis of the BJP took the Chief Minister's chair after the Mahayuti victory. With the eclipse of Mr. Kumar, the social justice politics that Bihar has practised for the last half-century – rooted in Lohiaite assertion, OBC mobilisation, and a resistance to upper caste dominance – is turning a page. It has a certain finality about it.

New formula

F1 can meet climate targets without losing any of the thrill

Formula One (F1) is currently going through a golden period. It is a fact reflected through record race attendances, viewing figures, teams' healthy balance sheets, and soaring valuations. Even on track, the previous seasons have seen exciting battles. In 2025, the battle for the drivers' title went down to the last race with three drivers in contention. Eventually, McLaren's Lando Norris triumphed ahead of his teammate Oscar Piastri and Red Bull's Max Verstappen, the four-time champion. Now, on the eve of the season-opening Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne, F1 is embarking on a bold trajectory that could define its future. At a time when there is heightened focus on climate goals and a push towards sustainable living, F1, with its fuel-guzzling machines and a global circus criss-crossing five continents 24 times a year, can be seen as an anachronistic endeavour. In 2019, F1 laid out a plan to become net carbon zero by 2030, and starting this year, it will take its biggest leap towards achieving that goal. The governing body, the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), has introduced a new hybrid engine formula for 2026, split equally between conventional internal combustion engines and electric motors. More importantly, all cars will be powered by advanced sustainable fuels.

These fuels are derived from carbon capture, municipal waste, and non-food biomass rather than from crude oil. The battery for the electric motor will be charged by harvesting energy lost during braking. Historically, major automotive manufacturers have used motorsport as a platform for research and development and have transferred technology from track vehicles to traditional cars. The new rules have attracted big firms back to the series. Audi has entered its own team; Honda and Ford have returned to the sport as engine partners to Aston Martin and Red Bull Racing, respectively. While these are lofty ambitions, in the end, F1 is still a sport, and the main aim is to produce an exciting championship. The charm of racing is seeing drivers push cars to their absolute limits and enthral viewers. During pre-season testing, the new cars received a lukewarm response from the drivers, who felt the new formula did not allow them to push the cars to their limits at all times, as they were energy-starved. Though these are early days yet, it will be interesting to see how quickly the teams overcome these challenges or how the rule-makers step in to ensure that the spirit of the sport is not lost. If F1 can deliver close racing and a competitive championship by this season's end, the gamble may prove worthwhile.

The second part of a selection of articles on the Editorial and Opinion pages, curated for International Women's Day on March 8

Rights, justice, action for India's women farmers

On March 8, 2026, women and girls around the world will demand equal rights, and equal justice to enforce, exercise, and enjoy them, to mark International Women's Day. The theme aligns closely with 2026 also being observed as the International Year of the Woman Farmer.

Legal reforms, including equal inheritance rights for daughters, have not translated into matching gains on the ground. In most rural households, land and property remain registered in men's names. Social norms, patrilineal inheritance practices, limited legal awareness and administrative hurdles keep women's names off land records. The woman who manages daily farm operations and negotiates with input dealers and labourers often does so without the legal standing that a land title would confer.

Without titles or formal recognition as farmers, women face systemic barriers to accessing institutional credit, crop insurance, irrigation schemes, agricultural extension services, climate-resilient technologies and many flagship programmes that hinge on documentation. When eligibility is linked to assets they do not own, exclusion is built into the design.

Given that women's access to and control over cultivable land remains abysmally low due to a combination of social, legal and cultural factors, their labour and contributions remain invisible and undervalued. This disparity between the substantial contributions by women to agri-food systems and their lack of formal recognition as "farmers" underscores a structural disconnect at the core of their systemic exclusion.

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan

is Chairman of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)

Elisabeth Faure

is Representative and Country Director of the World Food Programme in India

Feminisation of agriculture without security

As migration by men accelerates, agriculture is increasingly being "feminised": women take on greater responsibility for cultivation, risk management and household food provisioning. While, in theory, the expanded role of women in agriculture could improve women's nutritional outcomes, in practice, heavy agricultural workloads, poor access to drudgery-reduction technologies, and the absence of a supportive care ecosystem place immense pressure on them to balance both productive and reproductive responsibilities.

Studies show that resource-poor women who experience huge work burdens, especially during peak agricultural seasons, experience severe health issues and micronutrient deficiency. India still carries an unacceptably high burden of malnutrition among women and girls. Persistently high anaemia rates among women of reproductive age, combined with widespread micronutrient deficiencies, amount to a silent emergency.

These nutritional deficits in women have intergenerational consequences. Maternal undernutrition and anaemia contribute to low birth weight, stunting and impaired development in children. Diets in many rural households remain cereal-heavy and low in pulses, fruits, vegetables and animal-source foods. The paradox is stark: women who help feed the nation are unable to secure a diverse, nutritious diet for themselves and their children.

> As farming in India feminises, empowering women farmers can drive climate-resilient, biodiversity-rich and nutrition-sensitive agriculture

Over the last decade, India has put in place an ambitious right-to-food framework, anchored in the National Food Security Act. The law guarantees subsidised cereals, supplementary nutrition for pregnant and lactating women and young children, and maternity entitlements. Several States have added local foods, millets and fortified staples to their diets. Yet, improvements in women's nutrition have been uneven, and anaemia trends are deeply worrying.

Entitlements halt at the threshold

Progress toward bridging the gap between law and lived reality requires gender-transformative approaches. The status of women in agri-food systems depends on addressing systemic inequalities.

Secure land rights, access to inputs, labour-saving technologies, credit, resources, extension services and decision-making empower women to influence agricultural practices, enhance diets and food security, and strengthen their agency. Improving women's agricultural entitlements promotes equity, health, and nutrition.

Prof. M.S. Swaminathan emphasised women's control over conservation, cultivation, consumption, and commercialisation in agri-food chains. However, programme designs often remain piecemeal: food transfers through Public Distribution Systems are cereal-centric, with uneven integration of pulses, millets, and nutrient-dense foods. Frontline workers, overburdened, impact programme quality and community literacy. Digitalisation offers benefits but can exclude those with poor connectivity, documentation or digital skills. The result is a limited right to food. Many women, especially women farmers, cannot fully claim, control, or benefit from them.

From the vantage points of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) in India, four priorities merit urgent attention if the 2026 theme is to have substantive content.

First, the visibility of women farmers in law, data, and policy. This can be achieved only if granular, gender-disaggregated data are collected and made available. All agricultural policies and schemes must draw on the definition of a farmer set out in the National Policy for Farmers, which delinks a farmer's identity from land ownership and emphasises the activities they perform. This acknowledges the contributions of women landowners, landless cultivators, tenants, agricultural labourers, sharecroppers, tribal and forest gatherers, and those involved in related agricultural work. Second, women's rights to land and to productive resources such as water and credit must be strengthened. This requires accelerating the implementation of equal inheritance provisions, promoting joint spousal titles, providing incentives to register land and housing in women's names, ensuring gender-sensitive revenue registration processes, and strengthening their role in the management of common lands and water resources. Embedding land and asset questions within women's collectives – can enhance collective bargaining power.

Keeping nutritional objectives in focus

Third, it is essential to ensure that food systems and safety nets are closely aligned with nutritional objectives. Public procurement policies and agricultural support measures should promote the cultivation of nutri-cereals, pulses, fruits, and vegetables by small-scale and women farmers, and effectively distribute these products through public distribution channels, Anganwadis, and school meal programmes. Community-driven approaches such as kitchen gardens, women's seed banks, and localised food planning, can significantly enhance women's roles in transforming dietary patterns and production practices.

Fourth, women farmers must have access to technologies and extension services to strengthen their agency and decision-making. Labour-saving tools ease drudgery, reduce time poverty, and protect women's health. Equitable access to extension services ensures that women receive timely information, training and market insights tailored to their needs. When equipped with knowledge and appropriate technologies, women can make informed choices about crop selection, sustainable farming practices, and resource management, enhancing productivity, resilience, and household nutrition outcomes.

The MSSRF's experience shows that when women gain knowledge, rights and institutional backing, they become the drivers of climate-resilient, biodiversity-rich and nutrition-sensitive agriculture. The WFP's work in India and globally demonstrates that placing women at the centre of food security and social protection programmes improves outcomes not only for them but also for entire communities.

On this International Women's Day, the call for "Rights. Justice. Action. For All women and girls" should go beyond mere symbolism. Recognising women as farmers, ensuring their rights to land and productive resources, and allowing them to claim their right to food and nutrition are crucial steps toward creating a more equitable, resilient, and nourished India.

Balancing innovation with women's digital safety

The conversation around artificial intelligence (AI) has taken centre stage, and after the India AI Impact Summit 2026, in February, India's engagement with AI has heightened. While there is enough to appreciate how the world has transformed in terms of technology and innovation, on the occasion of International Women's Day 2026 (March 8), the need is to focus on "ethical AI" and women's digital safety.

With a steady rise in accessible Internet, women are continuously bearing the brunt of digital threats and humiliation. About 16%-58% of women have faced online harassment and abuse, a number that could rise further. Even as one in three women face physical or sexual violence, abuse against women has now crossed physical boundaries and geographies.

In the physical world, women can take a "degree of precaution", though never foolproof, to protect themselves. But in the digital world, protecting oneself from harm, doxxing and abuse is significantly difficult. This is driven by technology's deep integration into daily life and the anonymity that the digital world affords the perpetrators of abuse.

This is the deepfake era

The rise of deepfakes and the recent Grok AI issue are a case in point. Deepfakes are digitally altered images, audio, or videos created using AI that appear as though someone has said or done something they never actually did. Grok AI, an AI chatbot developed by xAI, is being used to generate non-consensual sexualised images of women.

In India, women endure deep inequalities and widespread violence. With the use of AI and access to deepfake technologies, the traditional and societal restraints of unacceptable behaviour melt away due to online anonymity. While one is not denouncing the use of AI and technology, the dialogue around the ethical use of AI is paramount now more than ever.

Prachi Dutta

is a corporate lawyer licensed in New York and India, advises companies and funds, and serves as an Adjunct Professor at Jindal Global Law School and Shiv Nadar University

No women developers

One of the major concerns about AI and a lack of women's digital safety is the lack of representation of women at the stage of designing AI tools. According to a report by UN Women, many deepfake tools – mostly built by men – rarely work on images of men. According to the United Nations Development Programme, women make up only 22% of AI professionals and below 14% work at senior levels.

This lack of women's representation at the stage of AI development leads to fewer diverse viewpoints shaping innovation. Research suggests that with more women and diversity in AI development teams, the overall effectiveness and applicability of AI increases. It has been proposed by UN Women that if there are more women researchers in AI, then the unique lived experiences of women can "profoundly shape the theoretical foundations of technology" and open new applications of the technology". When this is achieved and diverse expertise is integrated in AI development, the hope is that AI supports and weaves in women as equal stakeholders in the digital world. This should help in creating safer online spaces and technologies, including swiftly removing harmful content and responding effectively to abuse at the source.

> Ensuring the digital safety of women must guide AI development and its ethical use

Stronger laws to ensure prompt investigations into the unethical use of AI are key to ethical AI use. While Indian legislation attempts to do its bit to address online abuse, implementation is far from prompt.

The new notification introduced by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology directs that online intermediaries must take down reports of deepfakes within three hours of receiving a takedown notice. Notwithstanding the criticism of the new guidelines and the strong review process, the hope is that these guidelines are a step towards strengthening legislation to protect women from irreparable harm caused by unethical AI-like deepfakes.

Start young

A third way to address the unethical use of AI is to address the issue at the ground level. As one in three Internet users are children, one must accept that they are "digital natives" who are dependent on the web. Therefore, the emphasis on digital safety being taught at an elementary level to children is more crucial than ever. Children and young adults must be sensitised to the issue of digital abuse and AI misuse as seriously as the issue of sexual and physical abuse.

Resisting technological change, especially to AI, is futile and is not a sustainable solution as its integration into daily life is inevitable. However, on the occasion of International Women's Day 2026, prioritising women's digital safety and ethical AI use is essential so that women are not left bearing the brunt of advancement and technology.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India's authority

News that a foreign superpower has 'granted India a 30-day waiver to purchase oil from Russia' raises serious questions about the self-respect of independent India. This development is deeply concerning. Where exactly is India's 'high command' placed when it comes to taking diplomatic decisions? As a sovereign democratic republic, it is very alarming to see India's authority to decide trade relations based on its own national needs being surrendered to another nation.

One must question whether those who rose to power by exploiting religious hatred and communalism are now selling the nation's supreme authority — rightfully belonging to the people — to imperialist forces. Today, the country appears to be capitulating to the same imperialist powers that leaders such as Gandhiji and Nehru fought for decades to expel through historic struggles. The administration owes the nation an explanation.

S. Padmanabhan,
Kochi

The U.S. attack on an Iranian warship in the Indian Ocean sends a stark message to New Delhi and regional players. It reflects Washington's hegemonic attempt to pressure India into curtailing ties with Iran and toeing U.S.-dictated terms. By targeting a vessel that had recently participated in a peaceful exercise with India, this unprovoked military action signals both economic and military coercion. India should see it as an indirect challenge to its sovereign decision-making. Even as Canada and Finland praise India's long-standing strategic autonomy, the question remains: will India yield to yet another attempt at subordination by the U.S.?

Arush Upasani,
Pune

Change in Lok Bhavan

It is welcome news that the Tamil Nadu Governor will leave Lok Bhavan, Chennai. Throughout his tenure, he repeatedly undermined the elected government of the State, acted like a political operative rather than a constitutional head, and promoted ideologies alien to the State's culture. His exit is a relief for Tamil Nadu, though West Bengal now faces the challenge of dealing with him.

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

GROUND ZERO

A scene after the blast in the firecracker manufacturing unit in Vetlapalem village in Kakinada district. SPECIAL ARRANGMENT

Gone in a flash fire

An explosion at a firecracker manufacturing unit in Vetlapalem village of Kakinada district, Andhra Pradesh, claimed 28 workers' lives, including eight women. Preliminary investigations reveal that the unit's owners had allegedly stored explosive materials far beyond the permitted limit and engaged 31 workers, nearly four times the number allowed under licence, in a bid to fulfil festival and wedding orders, reports **T. Appala Naidu**

For Thumpala Lova, 38, the morning of February 28 was like any other, recalls her son Narendra. She woke up before dawn to devotional songs drifting from the 9th-century Kumara Bhimeswaraswamy temple on the outskirts of Vetlapalem village in Kakinada district, Andhra Pradesh. Trains rumbled along the tracks behind their house.

Within an hour, Lova had cooked lunch for herself and for Narendra, a 20-year-old construction worker. Wearing her favourite rose-coloured saree, she set out to work.

By 8 a.m., Narendra, who drove a two-wheeler, dropped her off near the irrigation canal that branches out from the Godavari river. Lova waded through the shallow waters to reach Sri Surya Fireworks, where she earned ₹450 a day. The construction site where Narendra worked was barely 100 metres from the firecracker unit. His wages contributed to keeping the family afloat.

That afternoon, soon after lunch at around 2:10, Narendra heard an explosion. Then, two more in quick succession. A deafening roar rose from the direction of Sri Surya Fireworks. In seconds, the complex was reduced to rubble.

The force of the blasts hurled bodies across the landscape. Some landed in the irrigation canal; others were flung into surrounding paddy fields. Of the 31 workers present at the site, 20 died on the spot. Eight workers succumbed to injuries in hospital. Three survivors are on ventilator support at the Government General Hospital in Kakinada.

Within hours of the blast, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu visited the site and met grieving families at the community health centre in Samarlakota. He announced ₹20 lakh ex gratia for each deceased worker's family, along with housing, educational support, and livelihood assistance. He said that the accused would face charges that could attract life imprisonment and that their properties might be auctioned to compensate victims. Home Minister V. Anitha and District Collector S. Shan Mohan handed over cheques to families.

Searching for survivors

When he heard the blast, Narendra ran to the spot. Dense black smoke engulfed the site. Villagers rushed in before emergency teams arrived, guided by screams for help.

"There were ashes and broken sheds. A fire was raging. There was also a suffocating smell of sulphur and burnt flesh," Narendra remembers. Then his voice breaks and he adds: "I saw a half-burnt body in a rose-coloured saree. I knew it was my mother."

He handed over his mother's remains to disaster response personnel. There was no time to process the tragedy or grieve; he joined the village youth in searching for survivors. "No one in the main unit survived," he says.

The police later deployed drones to scan fields and canal banks for scattered remains. Two days later, forensic teams say they recovered the head of a woman worker from a paddy field. The dead and injured belonged to Vetlapalem, G. Medapadu, and Samarlakota – villages within a 5-kilometre radius of the unit.

> I saw a half-burnt body in a rose-coloured saree. I knew it was my mother
>
> **NARENDRA**
> Construction worker

Preliminary investigations suggest that the fire originated in the explosive mixing unit. "A spark or friction during mixing likely triggered the ignition," says a senior police official. Inspector General of Police (Eluru Range) G.V.G. Ashok Kumar confirmed that the blaze began in the mixing section before spreading rapidly to other sheds, where finished products and raw materials were stored in large quantities.

The Regional Fire Officer (Krishna-Godavari Region), E. Swamy, says materials such as potassium nitrate, barium nitrate, sulphur, charcoal, aluminium powder, starch, and metal salts were being used that day. Some of these chemicals can be dangerous if they are not mixed in proper ratios or are not handled properly.

Women workers are typically engaged in packing and post-production tasks. However, the explosion's force spared no one. Many of the injured survivors remain unable to recount the incident, still traumatised and fighting for their lives.

The Vetlapalem blast is not an isolated incident. According to the Andhra Pradesh Disaster Response and Fire Services Department, 69 people have died in 12 firecracker unit explosions since 2014 in the erstwhile districts of Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, and Krishna. On October 20, 2014, following the mishandling of sulphur, charcoal, and nitrates, which triggered an explosion, 18 workers were burnt alive in Pithapuram.

In 2025 alone, 46 lives were lost in three such blasts across Anakapalli, Kakinada, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema districts.

After the blast in Konaseema district last October, the government constituted a 2-member inquiry committee. Most of the rules prescribed by it were reportedly not followed by the cracker unit in Kakinada.

This time too, a two-member committee headed by S. Suresh Kumar, Principal Secretary (Municipal Administration and Urban Development), and Ake Ravikrishna of the Elite Anti-Narcotics Group for Law Enforcement has been constituted to probe the incident. The forensic report is awaited.

Chandra Kala, who lost her mother in the tragedy, being consoled by locals in Vetlapalem village. T. APPALA NAIDU

Shattered dreams

For Devi, 22, the loss of her mother Lova has come as a shock. "My mother wanted me to complete graduation. She dreamed of my marriage this year," she says. "Now that dream is gone."

In another lane of Vetlapalem, sisters Usha Rani and Chandra Kala mourn their mother, Nookalla Devi, 48. Widowed two years ago, Devi had joined Sri Surya in 2023 to support her family.

Years earlier, Devi had survived a head injury at a rice mill and 20 stitches marked her scalp. Those scars helped the family in identifying her charred body.

"She called me thrice a day," Rani says. "On Saturday, she had called after lunch and asked if I had eaten. She said she was going to speak to my children in the evening."

In Gudaparthi area, barely 100 metres away, the asbestos roofs of over 100 homes were damaged. Many residents say they initially thought an earthquake had struck.

"Around 1:45 (p.m.), my brother got a call from the owner asking him to return early from lunch," says G. Saibaba, brother of 26-year-old Godatha Naani, who died in the explosion. "Minutes later, we heard the blast."

Naani's cousin Mahesh, 41, and maternal aunt Mandapalli Chinni, 44, also died. They were among eight Dalits from the Madiga community who lost their lives.

In G. Medapadu, both Gampala Nagaraju, 47, and his wife Pebodda Managa, 44, died. "My father's phone rang three times when I called after hearing of the blast," says their son, Venkata Ramana. "On the fourth ring, it stopped ringing. That is when I knew."

Flouting norms

Sri Surya Fireworks, spread over half an acre, was established in 2023 by the Adabala family. It was the largest among six units in Vetlapalem. One of the members of the family, Adabala Srinivasa Rao, 55, died in the blast. His sons, Arjun, 29 and Verababu, 31, survived and were arrested on March 2.

Officials allege that the unit had licence to use only 15 kilogrammes of explosive material per day and to employ a maximum of eight workers. Instead, it employed 31 workers. "Nearly 200 kg of raw and finished materials were stored on site," says Peddapuram Fire Station Officer M. Srihari Jagannath. "The rush was driven by orders worth ₹6 lakh from a local temple festival, along with additional wedding contracts."

The Peddapuram fire station officer, M. Srihari Jagannath, says the unit had been inspected on January 13, 2025, and had been instructed not to resume production without clearance. "The entire operation – procurement, storage and employment – was illegal," he says.

Operational guidelines mandate a 45-m separation between manufacturing sheds and storage areas. That norm, too, was violated, said the Labour and Factories Minister Vasamsetty Subhash to *The Hindu*.

Subhash acknowledged serious breaches. Andhra Pradesh has 488 licensed firecracker units, many of which have sought relaxation of safety norms. The government, he said, had firmly turned down these requests.

The earlier committee had outlined a two-pronged strategy comprising broad policy reforms and detailed operational standard operating procedures (SOPs). Central to its recommendations was the creation of a single digital platform – the Andhra Pradesh Fireworks Licensing and Monitoring System – to integrate licensing, inspections, and compliance oversight across all relevant departments.

The committee made it compulsory for joint inspections to be carried out by the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), Fire Services, the Labour Department, and the district administration, with inspection reports required to be uploaded within 48 hours.

It also proposed the introduction of a unified Fireworks Operation Licence, along with risk-based classification of units and the development of a Fireworks Risk Index to identify and prioritise high-risk establishments. It suggested zoning reforms to enforce a mandatory 500-m buffer between firecracker units and residential areas. Units failing to meet these norms were to be mapped and shifted to compliant locations.

To strengthen district-level oversight, the committee recommended constituting a District Fireworks Safety Committee under the chairmanship of the district collector. The committee was to conduct quarterly inspections, maintain a district-level risk register, and exercise powers under Rule 118 of the Explosives Rules, 2008, to suspend licences in cases of repeated violations, including breaches of electrical safety standards.

On the operational front, the SOPs mandated strict segregation of processes such as mixing, filling, drying, and storage into separate sheds. They prescribed adherence to worker limits in each shed, the use of non-sparking tools, installation of flame-proof electrical fittings, and prompt transfer of finished products to designated magazines. Employment was to be restricted to certified workers above 18 years of age, with compulsory training, use of personal protective equipment, and appointment of a PESO-approved competent foreman.

Additionally, it said units must install CCTV surveillance systems, along with automatic heat and smoke detection systems. It also mandated maintaining adequate water storage, fire extinguishers, lightning arresters and conducting biannual mock drills.

The compliance framework further included digital stock registers, QR-coded licence display boards, geo-tagged inspections, compulsory insurance coverage, third-party safety audits, environmental clearances, and sustained community awareness initiatives to ensure transparency and accountability.

Lives on edge

Vetlapalem once thrived on sago factories. There were roughly 60 units in 2004-05; today, fewer than half a dozen remain operational. Rising costs and environmental compliance requirements shut the rest down, according to residents. With few alternatives, workers turned to firecracker manufacturing.

Godatha Syamala, who lost her husband Mahesh, now faces an uncertain future. "My husband was our only breadwinner. I stayed home to raise our children. Where will I find work now? The sago factories are closed. Do I return to a firecracker unit," she asks. Her children are in Classes 10 and 8.

Mandapalli Chinni's daughter, Suvarna Sweety, got married in January. "My mother survived three earlier accidents in firecracker units," she says. "On Saturday, she even came home in the morning to collect her widow pension," she says. In fact, it was pension day that may have saved at least 20 other women who were absent from work that afternoon.

Her mother then went back to the unit, Sweety says. "It was as if death was waiting."

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From Page One

U.S. 'allows' India to buy Russian oil for 30 days

The price of Brent crude has increased to nearly $88 a barrel, a jump of about 20% in a week. Global oil supplies are currently constrained due to Iran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, and tankers avoiding the region due to the conflict.

This comes at a time when the Indian government has made assurances that the country has adequate amounts of crude oil, petrol and diesel in reserve. According to sources, India currently has 25 days of crude oil in reserve, and 25 days of petrol and diesel each. The order also follows a relatively sustained period where India has been cutting back on its Russian oil imports and increasing oil imports from the U.S.

A previous analysis by *The Hindu* of the latest preliminary data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows that India imported $1.98 billion worth of crude oil from Russia in January 2026, the month before India and the U.S. issued a joint statement about an interim trade agreement between the two countries. This was the lowest in 44 months. As a result of this, Russia's share in Indian oil imports fell to 19.3% in January 2026, the lowest since December 2022. In comparison, Russia's share was 27.5% two months earlier, and 33% in May 2025. A second government official, who did not want to be identified, had stated earlier this week that, at present, India procures 1.04 million barrels per day of crude oil from Moscow.

Need for Russian oil

"Considering more than 55% of India's oil imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz, elevated price and delays will stretch India's oil bill ($11.5bn/month) unless India ramps up imports from Russia (19% currently versus 43% in July 2024)," JM Financial Services said in a note. It added that, in the "extreme" scenario of Brent crude prices breaching the $90 per barrel mark, India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) could stretch to 1.4% of GDP, and the rupee could depreciate to ₹95 per U.S. dollar. "However, in such a scenario, imports of Russian fuel will take centre stage," it added.

Moody's also pointed out that India stands out among large Asian economies that rely on crude and LNG from West Asia due to its high share of West Asian crude among total oil imports, and pressure from the U.S. to cut its energy imports from Russia. "Costly energy imports would weaken the rupee, raise inflation, worsen the current account balance and complicate monetary policy as well as fiscal management if they lead to expanded subsidies to help offset the economic shock," Moody's said.

The sources in the government, however, said that Indian refiners have sourced more crude stocks from other parts of the world than what is currently stuck in the Strait of Hormuz.

In his post, Mr. Bessent further said that "India is an essential partner of the United States", and that the U.S. anticipates that India will "ramp up" purchases of U.S. oil.

RSP landslide in Nepal polls; Balen to be PM

RSP candidate and soon-to-be PM of Nepal Balendra Shah during a rally in Janakpur, Nepal on January 19. AFP

Mr. Shah is leading in the vote count against K.P. Sharma Oli of the CPN-UML. In Mr. Oli's home turf of Jhapa-5, Mr. Shah has secured 15,169 votes against 3,344 for the CPN-UML leader. The RSP is also ahead in the Proportional Representation (PR) count, securing 18,830 votes (59%) of the 31,882 votes counted till 8:05 p.m., while the NC secured 5,560 votes (17%). Under the PR system, the Rastriya Prajatantra Party, a pro-Hindu, pro-monarchist force, is third with 2,848 votes (9%), followed by the CPN-UML with 2,101 (6.5%).

Counting is under way in Nepal, which voted on Thursday in its first election since last year's Gen Z protests that claimed 77 lives, including 19 killed in police firing on the first day. The protests toppled the Oli government.

The RSP's victory path busts the long-standing notion that Nepal's mixed electoral system largely prevents any party from securing a majority. With the centrist liberal party appearing set to hit the threshold of 138 in the 275-member House of Representatives, Nepal could see a majority government for the first time in 27 years, with the mandate to complete a full five-year term. This would mark a rare reset in Nepali politics.

Groundswell of support

Founded in 2022, the RSP surprised many in that year's election by emerging as the fourth-largest party. In the run-up to the polls, it enjoyed a groundswell of support, with public opinion tilting towards it, largely because of Mr. Shah, popularly known as Balen. Balen, who won the Kathmandu mayoral election in the 2022 local polls as an independent candidate, joined the RSP in December last year. Dambar Khatiwada, a writer and commentator, said that Balen's entry had energised the youth, among whom he is hugely popular.

Nishant Kumar will take the party ahead, say JD(U) leaders

Nitish Kumar tells Ministers, MLAs and supporters in Bihar that he will not abandon them; party workers offer support to his son; RJD's RS candidate Amarendra Singh claims victory will be his

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

A day after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar filed his nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha, he assured leaders of the Janata Dal (United) that he would not abandon them.

During a crucial meeting at his official residence on Friday, JD(U) leaders also offered their "wholehearted" support to Mr. Kumar's son Nishant Kumar, who plans to join the party on March 8. "At the meeting of JD(U) MPs, Ministers and Legislature members held at the Chief Minister's official residence, Mr. Kumar assured party leaders that they do not have to worry at all as he would be around with them [even after going to the RS]. He will keep monitoring development works of Bihar," JD(U) spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said.

Asked about Nishant Kumar, Mr. Neeraj Kumar said: "Though he was not present in the meeting, his voice was there. He will take primary membership of the party on March 8, and thereafter tour across the State."

Winds of change: Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) national president Nitish Kumar meets his party MPs, Ministers and MLAs at his residence, in Patna on Friday. ANI

"Nishant Kumar will take the party ahead," added JD(U) leader Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, who is also the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Earlier in the day, the State's Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, both from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), had a closed door meeting with the CM at his official residence. The details of their discussion are not known.

Nominations filed

On March 5, Mr. Kumar and four other National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidates had filed nomination papers for the five Rajya Sabha seats from Bihar becoming vacant on April 9. The only candidate from the Opposition, Amarendra Dhari Singh of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), also filed papers for his re-nomination. Later on Friday, he told journalists that he had got the support of the 41 MLAs required to win the election to the Upper House. "One doesn't come to contest the poll to be defeated. I have the support of 41 MLAs and will win the poll," he said.

The election for the five Rajya Sabha seats is scheduled to take place on March 16. According to their nomination papers, Mr. Singh is the richest of the six candidates from Bihar, while Mr. Nitish Kumar is the poorest. The BJP has also fielded its national president Nitin Nabin.

With 202 NDA MLAs in the 243-strong State Assembly, the ruling alliance will need the support of just three more MLAs to win the fifth seat. The Opposition, which holds 35 MLAs, will need the support of six legislators beyond their alliance to hold on to a single seat.

As BJP gears up to take Bihar's reins, challenges remain

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

When Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar filed nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, it set off speculation on the future of Bihar politics and his party, the Janata Dal (U), obscuring the fact that getting its Chief Minister in the State after decades of trying presents several challenges for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

For the BJP, the growth in Bihar was hard-won through the wilderness years when the Congress ruled. Leaders such as Nand Kishore Yadav, Kailashpati Mishra, Ravi Shankar Prasad and the late Sushil Kumar Modi steered the BJP in the years leading up to the bifurcation of Bihar and Jharkhand, and before finally allying with the JD(U) in the mid 1990s. For the many years that the BJP was in an alliance with the JD(U), it remained there with a profound sense of the nature of the political field in Bihar – caste arithmetic, social justice politics, socialism, and its own Hindutva and largely upper caste appeal which appeared at odds but was quite complementary to Mr. Kumar's support base of non-Yadav OBCs, Extremely Backward Classes and women.

Always a step behind

Thus, the alliance ran with the BJP remaining a step behind and not claiming the Chief Minister's position even if its number outstripped the JD(U). Mr. Kumar walked in and out of the alliance at will and the BJP always welcomed him back. This holding back by the BJP has landed the party in a challenging situation right at the time when it has its first clear shot at the Chief Minister's chair – with no big faces or leaders around to claim both the post and public support.

The BJP has a deep bench strength of leaders from several communities such as deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary as a non-Yadav OBC, and Sanjeev Chaurasia who belongs to the Tambauli caste. Whoever gets the chair, however, will have the unenviable task of not only governing Bihar but also be the mascot of the transition that the State's polity and the BJP make in the post-Nitish Kumar era. For the BJP, the challenge of consolidating that support base remains.

How a tale of two Parivars has unfolded in Bihar

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George
NEW DELHI

It is curtains down for the political career of Nitish Kumar, who was baptised into politics through the Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) movement in the 1970s in Bihar – a movement that was itself a fusion of two families of politics, the Sangh Parivar and the Janata Parivar. The JP movement marked the consolidation of Other Backward Classes (OBC) politics in the State, against the Congress dominance that entrenched upper-caste social hegemony.

OBC politics in Bihar has gone through numerous churns over the last century. Three communities – the Yadavs, Kurmi and Koeri – helmed the challenge to upper-caste hegemony in the State. Mr. Kumar is a Kurmi. After playing second fiddle to Lalu Prasad Yadav within the Janata Parivar for many years, Mr. Kumar broke away to found the Samata Party in 1994, which later transitioned into the Janata Dal (United) or JD(U).

After being in the saddle for 20 years as Chief Minister, he is now set to enter the Rajya Sabha. His exit from the central stage marks the conclusion of a social and political process shaped through the interaction between the Sangh Parivar and the Janata Parivar over the last half-century. With this, the extinction of the Janata Parivar appears closer; it is a triumph of the Sangh Parivar.

Ideological split

Politics in the Hindi heartland has often been framed as Mandal versus Kamandal – OBC assertion and autonomy opposed to the Hindutva's push for unity and order among all Hindu castes. That has not been an entirely linear or binary antagonism. Mr. Kumar's own version of Mandal politics has been in alliance with Kamandal for most of his career. Under Narendra Modi, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) absorbed that dynamic of rivalry, contestation and accommodation among castes and converted it into an intra-Parivar affair – the Sangh Parivar's own affair, rather than inter-party rivalries and alliances.

Politics in the Hindi heartland has often been framed as Mandal versus Kamandal

Caste assertions and rivalries have not ceased; they now play out within the Parivar. The recent controversy around the UGC guidelines is a case in point. The Janata Parivar, that sprawling ecosystem of caste groups organised as competing and collaborating parties, is being retired. The Koeri redoubt in Bihar – Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Morcha – is also under pressure to dissolve itself into the BJP.

The JP movement and the Janata experiment had aggregated all aggrieved social groups against the upper-caste, Dalit and Muslim coalition that sustained the Congress. The Ram Janmabhoomi movement advanced Hindu consolidation, and the Bhagalpur riots of 1989 – which killed nearly 1,000 people, overwhelmingly Muslim – deepened communal polarisation in the State. Yet it was Lalu Prasad who outmanoeuvred the Sangh Parivar by stitching together the Hindu subalterns with Muslims into an unbeatable social base for the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). The demolition of the Babri Masjid completed the decimation of the Congress, pushing its upper-caste supporters towards the BJP, and Muslims and Dalits towards the RJD.

Surging Sangh Parivar

The Mandal-Kamandal dynamic has played out through multiple cycles of fragmentation and consolidation of social groups and parties, with the Sangh Parivar emerging more powerful at each stage. Lalu Yadav's OBC base unravelled, leaving him with only Yadavs and Muslims by 2005, even as Mr. Kumar raided his camps for non-Yadav OBCs and Dalits. In 2005, the RJD was definitively toppled, and Mr. Kumar came to helm the BJP-JDU ruling coalition as Chief Minister. Mr. Kumar initially resisted the emergence of Narendra Modi as the national leader of the BJP, but soon yielded before the surging ally. Mr. Modi entered Bihar in 2014 as an OBC leader, occupying the very ground the Janata Parivar had claimed as its own, leaving no doubt that its ally would eventually be cannibalised. That process is now complete – or at least the BJP believes so. A leader from the OBC community will, in all likelihood, be the next Chief Minister. An upper-caste BJP leader said, only half in jest, that BJP stood for 'Backward Janata Party.' Upper-caste supporters of the BJP have limited options, and the party is willing to bend to the strength of numbers that OBCs possess. Caste dynamics are now being managed as family disputes within the Hindutva universe. It is no longer social justice versus Hindutva, no longer Mandal against Kamandal. It is social justice within Hindutva – Mandal absorbed into the Kamandal.

LS to debate resolution on removal of Om Birla as Speaker on Monday

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With the Lok Sabha to debate an Opposition-sponsored resolution seeking Speaker Om Birla's removal from office, both the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have issued whips directing their members to be present in the House from March 9 to 11 during the second part of the Budget Session which commences on Monday. The resolution has been listed in the agenda of the Lok Sabha on Monday. Rules permit Mr. Birla to sit in the house. He can vote on the motion too, except if there is a tie. Sources said that BJP MP Jagdambika Pal is most likely to chair the session.

Opposition MPs, citing instances of "partisan behaviour" by Speaker Birla, had filed a resolution seeking his removal. A total of 118 Lok Sabha MPs signed the resolution. The Trinamool Congress was the only major Opposition party not to sign, saying that the Opposition should have escalated the issue step-by-step, allowing Mr. Birla a chance to defend himself against the charges.

The first part of the session was marked by sharp exchanges between the two sides. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's address was interrupted by protests from the ruling benches, who objected to his attempt to cite excerpts from the unpublished memoir of former Army Chief General Naravane.

Eight Opposition members were suspended for the remainder of the session for violating rules.

West Bengal CM begins sit-in against deletion of names from voter rolls

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday began a sit-in in Kolkata against the deletion of names from the electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) carried out by the Election Commission (EC) in West Bengal.

Accompanied by several leaders of her party, the Trinamool Congress chairperson sat in protest at the Metro Channel in the Esplanade area and vowed to present those declared dead on the electoral rolls on stage before the media. "They have nowhere to hide their faces. The shameless [Bharatiya Janata Party] BJP and their agent, the Election Commission," Ms. Banerjee said.

Defiant stance: Mamata Banerjee with party MP Dola Sen, left, and others during the *dharna* in Kolkata on Friday. PTI

The Chief Minister said she would present 22 people who had been declared dead by the EC, as well as eight families who had lost their kin to the SIR. The protest by Ms. Banerjee comes almost a week after the EC declared the final electoral rolls in the State on February 28.

The list includes about 60 lakh electors whose right to vote remains under adjudication by judicial officers.

Large numbers

Trinamool general secretary Abhishek Banerjee also joined the demonstration and said that true to the claims of the BJP more than one crore names had been deleted after the SIR. "About 58 lakh voters' names were removed in the draft electoral list. After that, on February 28 when the electoral roll was published, the number of deleted voters increased to 63 lakh. The number of electors under adjudication is more than 60 lakh. In total, 1.20 crore. This is what the BJP leaders were saying. This cannot be a coincidence." Mr. Banerjee said.

The BJP said Ms. Banerjee was abdicating her constitutional responsibility by doing the *dharna*. It is an attempt to disrupt the SIR process, it said.

Former Rajya Sabha MP and BJP leader Swapan Dasgupta said that the *dharna* is an attempt to instigate chaos in Kolkata and the State. "This is against her constitutional responsibility... For her, the Constitution has become a convenient instrument," Mr. Dasgupta said.

India must ask U.S. why it is targeting our ships, says Iran

Iran has not shut Strait of Hormuz, says Deputy Foreign Minister; attack on the West Asian nation based on a lie, he says, pitching for diplomacy

Suhasini Haidar
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India must ask the United States why it is targeting Iranian ships in the Indian Ocean, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Friday. He said Iran was a "responsible power" and had not closed the Strait of Hormuz.

Mr. Khatibzadeh, who spoke at the External Affairs Ministry's marquee event Raisina Dialogue, said diplomacy would be the "only option" that would resolve the war. "Iran is not stopping Indian ships in the Hormuz Strait, but India must ask the U.S. why it is targeting Iranian ships in the Indian Ocean. They are the threat, they should be asked," he said in response to a question from *The Hindu* on the drowning of *IRIS Dena* by a U.S. submarine near the Sri Lankan coast on Wednesday.

Mr. Khatibzadeh, who is the first Iranian dignitary to visit India since the beginning of the U.S.-Israel war on Iran, said the attack on his country was "based on a lie that Iran posed a threat".

He said the war was based on a "delusion of establishing Greater Israel" in West Asia.

Dialogue route: S. Jaishankar interacts with Saeed Khatibzadeh on the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

'Responsible power'

The Iranian Minister had a brief meeting with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his deputy Kirti Vardhan Singh on the sidelines of the event. Mr. Jaishankar later shared a photograph of this meeting on his social media accounts.

Mr. Khatibzadeh described Iran as an "anchor of stability in the Strait of Hormuz" and said, "We have not closed the Strait of Hormuz. We are a responsible power." He did not rule out dialogue to resolve the hostility adding, "Diplomacy down the road is the only option."

Hours after Mr. Khatibzadeh's meeting with the External Affairs Minister, Iran's Foreign Ministry issued a statement summing up Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi's telephone conversation with Mr. Jaishankar on Thursday and his Friday phone call with his Sri Lankan counterpart, Vijitha Herath, who too is in Delhi for the Raisina Dialogue.

The statement mentioned that Mr. Araghchi conveyed "appreciation for Sri Lanka's efforts in the rescue operation for the sailors of the frigate *Dena*". He called upon "all governments and the United Nations to firmly condemn the criminal actions of the U.S. and the Israeli regime".

Iran vessel with 183 sailors docked in Kochi on March 4

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Days before the sinking of *IRIS Dena* by a U.S. submarine, Iran had approached India to let an Iranian ship dock in Kochi, sources in the government said. Iran had requested to "take in *IRIS Lavan* which was in India's territorial waters for the International Fleet Review in Visakhapatnam", the source said.

IRIS Lavan has been docked at Kochi since March 4 as the vessel had developed technical issues. "Its crew of 183 are currently accommodated at naval facilities in Kochi," the source said.

'We back America over Iran, but now we just need to de-escalate this war'

Finland's President says it is important to stop the West Asia crisis from becoming a global conflict; he concedes that U.S. and Israel are acting 'outside framework of international law' but is quick to flag Iran's actions and 'building of nuclear weapons'

INTERVIEW

Alexander Stubb

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

R.V. MOORTHY

It is necessary to stop the West Asia war from spreading, emphasised Finnish President Alexander Stubb, who also voiced concerns on the U.S. sinking an Iranian ship in the Indian Ocean. Mr. Stubb, who is seen as a close ally of U.S. President Donald Trump said that while European countries would side with America in the conflict, he did believe that the U.S. and Israel were acting "outside the framework of traditional international law" with their strikes on Iran that assassinated the country's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on February 28. On the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue in Delhi where he was the chief guest, Mr. Stubb said the non-alignment policy suited a country of India's size and geography. Edited excerpts:

Are you concerned that [the war in West Asia] could spread? After the attack by the U.S. on an Iranian ship in the Indian Ocean, are you concerned that this is now headed towards a world war, and do you see an end game?

I would argue, ever since Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, [conflicts] have become regional and we've seen that trend grow. Israel-Palestine, now Israel-U.S.-Iran, and then Iran versus the Gulf states. We should try to avoid to make this war into a global conflict, and use all de-escalatory means necessary at this stage.

The less states are hit by this, the better. But the truth, of course, is that we can't be ostriches and put our heads in the sand. The price of oil will have an impact. The closing of the Hormuz Strait will have an impact on global trade. We're all affected by this, but now we just need to contain it.

Spain, France and, today, Slovenia have very clearly condemned the U.S.-Israel attacks, which were the first strike in this war. Yet some countries, including Finland, have not. Is Europe divided over what has happened?

No, I think it is as united as Europe is. I mean, it's 27 states. Even on the war in Russia, we have disparate voices from, for instance, Hungary and partially Slovakia. So European foreign policy is never perfect.

But if the question was, do we back America or Iran, I think the answer is very clear, we back America.

Despite the fact that U.S.-Israel cast the first strike?

Despite that fact, and you can, of course, see the United Kingdom and France allowing the United States to use their bases for the strike. So in that sense, I think it's quite clear where their sympathies are.

You discussed the war in Ukraine with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and there was a reference to it in the joint statement. Was there anything you requested India to do?

For a country like Finland, the key conflict is Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine. So I was able to explain to Prime Minister Modi why there are security concerns about Russian aggression in the region, I think both of us were very focused on a path towards peace. India is a peace-loving nation, and India is one of the few that can talk to both Russia and to Ukraine on an equal footing and with equal respect from both leaders.

The U.S. has announced it is giving India a 30-day waiver from sanctions to buy Russian oil. How do you respond to that?

(Smiles) You know, I'm a humble President from a country of 5.6 million people. I'm not going to intervene in the international relations or diplomacy between India and the U.S.

Do you hope India will continue to decrease Russian oil imports as it has for some months?

I don't give advice to a leader from a country that has 7% annual growth rate and a population of a little bit less than 1.5 billion. I can only explain what the impact of oil purchases are for the Russian war machinery, but it's not my decision, it's for India to decide.

The Finnish government announced it is preparing to allow the acquisition of nuclear weapons. Why this major change in position?

This is not about Finland acquiring nuclear weapons. We have no such plans, and Finland will not become a nuclear state. It is about erasing an anomaly in Finnish legislation (from 1987). We're bringing our legislation to the same level as the other Nordic states. And we are dismantling any impediments to us being a part of NATO's nuclear planning. It's not against anyone. It's for our own security.

I wanted to ask about what's seen as double standards in this war: the U.S. and Israel have carried out strikes to take out the head of another state, invade the territory, do away with the sovereignty in a manner that has not been condemned as much by you or by other members of the European Union as in the past...

I think it is quite clear that Israel and the United States are working outside the framework of traditional international law. It is also clear that building nuclear weapons in Iran is against international law, and the attacks that Iran has launched on 10 states in the Middle East and the Gulf and also in Europe with Cyprus, and Turkey and Azerbaijan are also outside the scope of international law.

At the Raisina Dialogue inaugural speech you called for a "New Delhi moment" conference to discuss the new multilateral world order. Do you suggest that the United Nations should be replaced?

No, we need to revise the United Nations. We need to have multilateral institutions reflect the world of 2026, not the world of 1945 and that's why countries like India need to have a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. That's why the power balance in the financial institutions such as the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO needs to be changed and revamped.

You praised India for its non-alignment and multi-alignment since Independence. Why do you think that has worked for India?

Because your geographic location is different and your size is very different, you're able to project power in a way in which a small country cannot.

For me, power is influence. For you, power is soft, hard, smart and influence. So there's a big difference.

India denies assisting U.S. Navy in attack on Iran's ship

Existing agreements like LEMOA and COMCASA do not bind India to support American defence operations, say officials

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

India has denied reports that it assisted the United States in targeting an Iranian vessel near Sri Lankan waters, with a top naval official on Friday describing such reports as "baseless".

IRIS Dena was sunk by a U.S. Navy submarine on March 4 in international waters off the coast of Sri Lanka.

The officer said that India had not provided any assistance to U.S. authorities or its military in relation to the Iranian warship and clarified that existing India-U.S. communication and logistics agreements do not automatically apply to such situations.

The officer added that New Delhi had not received any request from Washington seeking logistical assistance. India and the United States signed the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016, which enables reciprocal, case-by-case logistical support such as refuelling, supplies and repairs between the two militaries.

However, officials emphasised the agreement applies only to mutually agreed activities such as exercises and port calls and does not provide automatic access or obligate either side to extend support. Each request is considered individually, ensuring India's strategic autonomy.

The two countries also concluded the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) in 2018, which facilitates the transfer of advanced encrypted communication equipment and enables secure, real-time data exchange between the militaries. Officials stressed that this arrangement is not automatic and does not mandate or guarantee immediate technology transfer or logistical support.

Officials reiterated that the pacts do not bind India to support American defence operations.

I&B Ministry halts publication of TRP for TV news channels

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Friday asked the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) to suspend publication of Television Rating Points (TRPs) for TV news channels for four weeks or until further direction.

The order has been issued in view of the "unwarranted sensationalism" in reporting the ongoing war in West Asia involving the U.S., Israel, and Iran.

It is learnt that the Ministry took note of the sensational and speculative reporting of the conflict by a section of broadcasters, which had the potential to create panic among the public.

Accordingly, the BARC has been asked to pause the publication of TRPs, apparently to ensure that the channels do not indulge in such reporting for higher viewership ratings.

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & an ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)
VIDYUTH SOUDHA, VIJAYAWADA-520004.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The APTRANSCO invites bids online for **Spec. No. PMM32-e-09/2026:** Supply of line Hardware material suitable for ACSR Quad Moose, Twin Moose and Zebra conductors. **Date & Time of availability of above tenders: 07.03.2026 at 6:00PM.** Website: **www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** & **www.bharat-electronictender.com** Contact No. CE/Transmission: **0866- 2429230.**

RO. No : GMCC/APTRANSCO/63/26 **Sd/- Chief Engineer/Transmission**

KERALA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT (KSWMP)
LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Loan No./Credit No./Grant No.: IBRD-P4960;

REQUEST FOR BID

Project Director, Kerala Solid Waste Management Project (KSWMP) under LSGD, is notifying a ***Request for Bid (RFB)*** No: IN-SUCM-533554-CW-RFB for the **"30 TPD Bio - CNG Facility, including collection and transportation services of biodegradable waste located at Changanassery Municipality, Kottayam, Kerala."** on Design - Build -Operate basis.

The RFB, including the "Employer's Requirements", is available at **www.kswmp.org** and **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in**. Interested must submit their Proposals through the electronic-procurement portal of Government of Kerala **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** by **16.00 hours** on **April 03, 2026**

The pre bid meeting is on **March 10, 2026** at **11:00 AM**. Meeting Link will be available on the Project Website.

Project Director, Upper Ground Floor, Trans Towers, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram - 695014, Kerala, India,
Telephone: 0471-2333011, E-Mail: tenderkswmp@gmail.com, Website: www.kswmp.org

March 02, 2026. **D3/243/2026/I&PRD**

National Dairy Development Board
PB No. 40, Anand, Gujarat-388001, Tel: 02692-260 148/149/160 Fax: 02692-260 159
Website: http://www.nddb.coop, Email: purchase@nddb.coop
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) / LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (LCB)

Bids are invited on behalf of Service Recipients/ NDDB from eligible bidders for the works listed below:

Sl. No.	Description of works / Bid Reference	Estd. Cost (₹) incl GST/Duration	Event Start / Close Date	Bid submission / opening date & time
A	**Civil, Structural, Water Supply, Sanitary & Other Misc. works including Internal Electrification works for:**			
I	Nandini Hi-Tech Semen Processing Lab, Hessarghatta, Karnataka. **NDDB/HO/Purchase/110/25-26/ET/110[Civil-Hessarghatta]**	710 Lakh / 12 Months	10.03.26 01.04.26	01.04.26 15:00 hrs. 01.04.26 15:30 hrs.
II	Borewell works at AmulFed Dairy II, Rajkot, Gujarat. **NDDB/HO/Purchase/111/25-26/ET/111[Borewell-Rajkot]**	425 Lakh / 03 Months	07.03.26 30.03.26	30.03.26 15:00 hrs. 30.03.26 15:30 hrs.
B	**Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning the following:**			
I	4 LLPD Dairy Plant at Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh. **NDDB/HO/Purchase/112/25-26/ET/112[LMP-Kuppam]**	3900 Lakh / 12 Months	10.03.26 01.04.26	01.04.26 15:00 hrs. 01.04.26 15:30 hrs.
II	2 x 8 TPH Solid Fuel Boiler at Davanagere, Karnataka. **NDDB/HO/Purchase/113/25-26/ET/113[Boiler-Davanagere]**	740 Lakh / 10 Months	10.03.26 01.04.26	01.04.26 15:00 hrs. 01.04.26 15:30 hrs.
III	PUF Panel with IE works for CS & DF at Davanagere, Karnataka **NDDB/HO/Purchase/114/25-26/ET/114[Refri I - Davanagere]**	370 Lakh / 12 Months	07.03.26 30.03.26	30.03.26 15:00 hrs. 30.03.26 15:30 hrs.
IV	Water Treatment Plant at Davanagere, Karnataka. **NDDB/HO/Purchase/115/25-26/ET/115[WTP-Davanagere]**	244 Lakh / 08 Months	07.03.26 30.03.26	30.03.26 15:00 hrs. 30.03.26 15:30 hrs.
V	Internal Electrification for Non-BSL Building, IIL Karkapatla **NDDB/HO/Purchase/116/25-26/ET/116[IE-Karkapatla]**	155 Lakh / 03 Months	07.03.26 30.03.26	30.03.26 15:00 hrs. 30.03.26 15:30 hrs.

For further details pertaining to IFB and for downloading the bid document, please visit these websites: **www.nddb.coop** and **www.mstcecommerce.com/eprocn** For any clarification please contact **Group Head (Purchase), NDDB, Anand-**388001.
NB: Any corrigendum/modification etc. will be posted only on these websites.

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029

DrNB FINAL EXAMINATION – April 2026

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the DrNB Final Theory Examination on **24th, 25th and 26th April 2026.**

The online applications are being invited from **06.03.2026** (05:00PM onwards) **to 23.03.2026** (till 11:55 PM) at NBEMS website:

https://natboard.edu.in/viewnbeexam?exam=dnb

Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333
- **Helpline Portal on applicant login page**
- **Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website**

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
Tender No.ENG/CE/1607/IOB/2025/458, Dt.27.02.2026
Augmentation of Iron Ore Berth (IOB) and construction of South Quay-II (SQ-II) Berth on BOT basis
INVITATION OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ) & REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
Paradip Port Authority (PPA) invites bids from interested Bidders in accordance with the RFQ & RFP documents which may be downloaded from the CPP Portal (https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app). Last date and time of submission of Bids is 13.05.2026 till 1400 hours.
Executive Engineer (C),
Project Implementation Office, PPA.
PPA/PR/72/2025-2026, dt.05/03/2026

CIDCO
WE MAKE CITIES

NOTICE INVITING PROPOSAL

Independent Engineer for Development of Phase III and Operations of combined Phase I & II of Navi Mumbai International Airport

The City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited, through the process of e-tendering, invites on-line Proposals from Internationally experienced and reputed Single business entities, JV or Consortia for Appointment of **"Independent Engineer for Navi Mumbai International Airport - Development of Phase III and Operations of combined Phase I & II"** as per below mentioned details.

1. Name of Work : Independent Engineer for Development of Phase III and Operations of combined Phase I & II of Navi Mumbai International Airport 2. C. A. No.: 01/CGM (T&A)/TE (NMIA & P)/2025-26 **3. E.M.D. :** Rs. 30,00,000/- (Rs. Thirty Lakhs only) **4. Term of Consultancy :** Thirty-Six (36) Months **5. Method of Selection :** Quality and Cost based Selection (QCBS) system **6. RFP Processing Fee :** Rs.29,500/- (Indian Rupees Twenty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred only) - including GST @ 18%, non-refundable. This RFP document is non-transferrable

The Bidding Schedule and Bidding documents will be available on the official website of CIDCO Ltd. ie. **http://mahatenders.gov.in** from 06/03/2026.(17.00 Hrs)

Chief General Manager (Transport & Airport)

CIN - U99999 MH 1970 SGC-014574
www.cidco.maharashtra.gov.in
CIDCO/PR/536/2025-26

INBRIEF

Two pilots killed as Su-30MKI fighter plane crashes in Assam

Two Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots were killed after a Su-30MKI fighter jet crashed during a training mission in Assam's Karbi Anglong district on Thursday evening. Squadron Leader Anuj and Flight Lieutenant Purvesh Duragkar sustained fatal injuries in the crash, the IAF confirmed. The aircraft had taken off from the IAF base in Jorhat, Assam, and was on a routine training sortie when it lost contact. The incident was reported in the Karbi Anglong area, about 60 km from Jorhat. In a statement, the IAF expressed deep condolences and said that all personnel stand firmly with the bereaved families in this time of grief. A probe into the cause of the crash has been ordered.

Focus on export-oriented high-value crops: says PM

Addressing a webinar on Friday on the Budget proposals for the rural economy and agriculture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged agri-entrepreneurs to go beyond investing in storage and increase innovation and investment in processing, supply chains, agri-tech, agri-fintech, and exports. He asked farmers to focus on export-oriented and high-value crops. He said that from food grains and pulses to oilseeds, the country has achieved record production. Mr. Modi said new energy must be infused into agriculture, and the Budget for 2026-27 has taken new steps in that direction. He further said it was essential to discuss how to make the country's farming export-oriented.

U.S. 'allowing' India to buy Russian oil is 'humiliating' for sovereignty: Congress

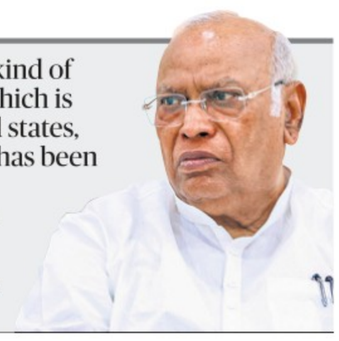
Kharge says strategic autonomy under threat, while Rahul points to 'exploitation of a compromised individual'; Opposition will seek discussion on the West Asia conflict in Parliament, says Ramesh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Criticising the Modi government over U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent's comment that President Donald Trump had "allowed" Indian refiners to buy Russian oil for 30 days, the Congress on Friday said it was "deeply humiliating for India's sovereignty".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, in a post on X, alleged that India's strategic autonomy and national sovereignty was under dire threat "because Prime Minister Modi is getting blackmailed on Epstein Files and Adani case". Targeting the government, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, said India's foreign policy was the result of the "exploitation of a compromised individual".

> This is the kind of language which is used for sanctioned states, and not India, who has been a responsible and an equal partner in the global order
>
> **MALLIKARJUN KHARGE**
> Congress president



Slams U.S. remarks

The party also raised a red flag over the recent remark by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau that the U.S. would put America first in the trade deal with India. "India's foreign policy emerges from the collective will of our people. It should be rooted in our history, our geography, and our spiritual ethos based on *satya* and *ahimsa*. What we are witnessing today is not policy. It is the result of the exploitation of a compromised individual," he said on X.

The Opposition leader also shared his February 11 speech in the Lok Sabha during the discussion on the Budget, where he spoke about India's energy security being compromised. "The U.S. will tell us who we can or cannot buy oil from; if it's Russia or Iran, the U.S. will decide. But our Prime Minister will not decide," Mr. Gandhi had said.

Echoing the sentiment, Mr. Kharge hit out at the government for ceding diplomatic space to the U.S. In a post on X, Mr. Kharge said: "The U.S. proclamation to 'allow' and grant us 'permission' to buy Russian oil, as a 'waiver for 30 days' clearly demonstrates Modi government is continuously ceding diplomatic space. This is the kind of language which is used for sanctioned states, and not India, who has been a responsible and an equal partner in global order."

"From trade to oil, from data to India's long-term relationships with friendly countries, Modi ji SURRENDERED it all," Mr. Kharge said, adding that Mr. Modi had made India a "vassal state".

Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal also said it was deeply humiliating for India's sovereignty that it needed a U.S. "waiver" to purchase oil from a time-tested partner like Russia. "Instead of standing up to the U.S. dictating terms, Compromised PM Modi is handing our energy sovereignty on a platter to other countries," he said on X

Addressing a press conference, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said Mr. Gandhi's words on February 11 in the Lok Sabha – that the U.S. would decide from whom we should be purchasing oil – yet again proved prophetic.

Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh, in a post, asked, "How long will the America blackmail continue". He also said the Opposition would press for a full-fledged discussion in Parliament on the West Asia conflict once the Budget Session resumes on March 9.

Stalin, other leaders hit out at govt. over U.S. announcement

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

M.K. Stalin

In the wake of reports that the United States has "allowed" India to import Russian oil for a period of 30 days to help mitigate the spike in oil prices, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Friday asked why India should need another country's approval to meet its own energy needs.

"When the United States decides to allow India to purchase Russian oil for just 30 days, it raises a fundamental question: why should India need another country's approval to secure its own energy needs," Mr. Stalin asked in a social media post.

Referring to the sinking of the Iranian naval vessel *IRIS Dena* by the U.S., Mr. Stalin said this incident was "equally troubling".

Mr. Stalin alleged that the BJP-led government at the Centre looked "totally compromised on India's long-standing tradition of strategic autonomy and an independent foreign policy". India's dignity in the international arena needed to be protected and the nation's sovereignty and interests needed to be defended, he added.

Citing U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent's remarks on "allowing" India a temporary waiver to purchase Russian oil, several Opposition leaders accused the government of surrendering India's "sovereignty" to the U.S.

CPI Rajya Sabha member P. Sandosh Kumar, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said that Mr. Bessent's comments were "humiliating". He demanded that the government should strongly register its protest on such remarks.

CPI(M) Rajya Sabha leader John Brittas in a post on X said: "US 'grants' India a 30-day waiver to buy stranded Russian oil amid Middle East chaos? Is this 'facilitation' or pure humiliation for a sovereign nation like India?"

RJD's Rajya Sabha member Manoj K. Jha questioned the government's silence in the face of such remarks.

Airlines bring back 15,000 stranded passengers

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Indian airlines have brought back nearly 15,000 stranded passengers from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Oman since the beginning of this week.

Recovery flights began on March 2, and the figures are until March 5. On Friday, 40 inbound flights were conducted, the Civil Aviation Ministry said in a statement. Fifty-one flights are planned on Saturday.

Gulf airlines such as Emirates, flydubai, and Etihad have also operated some special flights and a limited number of commercial services.

The Ministry has set up a control room and helpline for passengers seeking assistance. The numbers are 011-24604283 and 011-24632987.

Anuj Agnihotri tops civil services exam; 958 candidates qualify

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Anuj Agnihotri

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) announced the results of the civil services examination on Friday, recommending 958 candidates for appointment to the IAS, IFS, IPS, and Central Services across the country, against 1,087 vacancies. Of the recommended candidates, 659 are men and 299 are women.

Anuj Agnihotri, a graduate from AIIMS, Jodhpur, secured the top rank, with medical science as his optional subject. Rajeshwari Suve, a graduate in electrical and electronics engineering from Anna University, Chennai, came second, with sociology as her optional subject. The third rank was secured by Delhi University graduate Akansh Dhull.

The civil services (preliminary) examination was conducted on May 25 last year. A total of 9.37 lakh candidates applied, of which 5.76 lakh candidates appeared. Candidature of 348 candidates has been kept provisional.

Of the 958 recommended candidates, 317 are from the general category, 158 from the SC category, 73 from the ST category, 306 OBC, and 104 candidates from the EWS category. About 84 candidates were Persons with Benchmark Disabilities across socio-economic categories, who were recommended against 42 vacancies.

"I am extremely happy at this achievement. It's an incredible feeling," Mr. Agnihotri said. He credited his success to family members saying they have been his biggest source of inspiration.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday congratulated all the candidates who successfully cleared the civil services examination, 2025 and said their dedication, perseverance and hard work had led to this significant milestone. For those who could not perform as desired, Mr. Modi said, this was only one step in a larger journey and many opportunities lay ahead, both in future examinations and in the many avenues through which they can contribute to the nation. (With PTI inputs)

'Scientists, diplomats must discuss evolution of quantum computing'

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Quantum computing is in a nascent stage of development and therefore this is a time that experts in the field and scientists should be engaging with diplomats to be able to form governance frameworks, partnerships, coalitions, international collaboration, and be "concretely ready" when the technology matures, Marilyne Andersen, Director General, Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA), said in an interview.

Quantum computing refers to computers that use an entirely different non-binary architecture from conventional computers and thus can exponentially accelerate calculation but at the same time threaten cybersecurity measures, that are premised on binary ones and zeros architecture. Ms. Andersen, who was a participant at the ongoing Raisina Dialogue here, met India's Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA), Ajay Sood, on Friday along with members of the PSA office and around 60 representatives from science, government, diplomacy, business and civil society to "anticipate and govern emerging scientific and technological breakthroughs," according to a press statement from the Swiss Embassy.

"As technology matures and disruption occurs, a governance gap becomes visible... this conventional reactive cycle served us adequately in eras when the pace of change was measured in decades. However, it is no longer adequate... The governance choices we make in the next decade will determine the effectiveness with which technologies such as quantum computing, artificial general intelligence will serve humanity," Mr. Sood said in a statement.

Marilyne Andersen

Deeper insight

Ms. Andersen, who was formerly a Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston and the Swiss Federal Technology Institute of Lausanne (EPFL), said scientists weren't always able to forecast the course of technology as they, like other humans, thought "linearly rather than exponentially".

However because scientific funding cycles usually worked in five- or 10-year cycles, they did have a deeper insight into the stage of development of certain fields. Around 2021, the scientific community was largely confident of the emergence of something like GPT3 – the Generative Pre-Trained Transformer-3 (by OpenAI with its 175 billion-parameters).

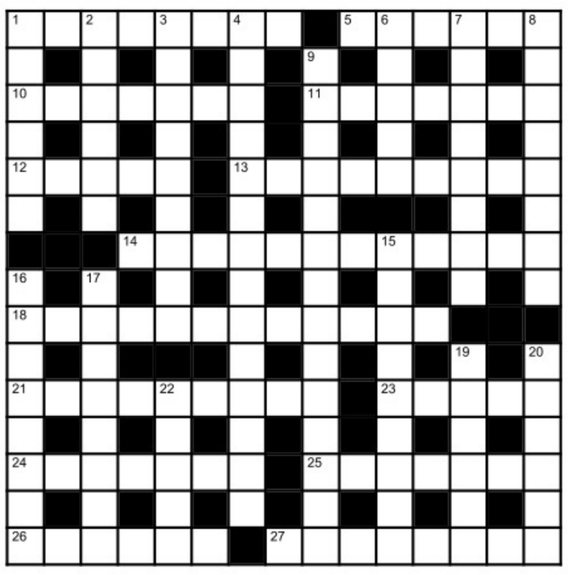
"What they didn't anticipate was that someone would put it out in the open – the 'chat' aspect of it. Many didn't want to do that because they knew that once it is out in the general population it is a whole new game. So while scientists can't precisely forecast, being experts and participants at conferences at the cutting edge of their science, they have a special voice," she explained.

TH CROSSWORD + 14735

(set by Dr. X)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Left overwhelmed by drink, fell in compound (8)
5 Tells the truth about ensnaring women with drink (4,2)
10 Scot on outing, touring city in Benin (7)
11 Old retired group managed to save bird (7)
12 Ogles lady on date in retreat? About right (5)
13 Couple welcoming expert with energy drink (5,4)
14 Rogue lazed, luring essentially hot, idle socialite (6,6)
18 Perfect moment with century by ace (6,2,4)
21 Heavy burden of married character having problems (9)
23 Start to empty a can to have a meal at home (3,2)
24 Star in rave consuming ecstasy and Greek wine (7)
25 Corrupt president in extremely disreputable party (7)
26 Sultan's ladies going around large neighbourhood of New York (6)
27 Attempt to control associate enthralled by drink and grass (8)

Down

1 Ailing in Italian island, taking potassium for illness primarily (6)
2 Agitation after drinking a little hooch (6)
3 Bequeaths easily (5,4)
4 Sadhu in tomb got up! He won't believe it (8,6)
6 Flexible twig of willow is off-white (5)
7 American television host's fancy villa acquired by star (8)
8 Foolish people crave to consume heroin - awfully sad (8)
9 Outraged blonde teen with rude, suggestive remark (6,8)
15 Hotelier turning to peep in secret (9)
16 Dilapidated room in abandoned ship - it is exactly similar in form as another (8)
17 Artist in drunken stupor, beginning to lurch outside club (8)
19 Disreputable model entering is hot (6)
20 Training earnestly to keep working effectively (2,4)
22 Polish husband involved in immorality on base (5)

SUDOKU

		2						7
4				5		6		
		5		6		1	4	
3		7			1		5	
	2						1	
	5		3			7		9
	8	1		4		3		
		3		8				6
7						4		

No.SS6812 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

F	A	C	E	L	I	F	T		P	A	W	P	A	W
I		L		I		I		S		R		A		I
S	W	A	G	G	E	R		C	O	U	N	T	E	D
C		Q		H		S		A		B		H		E
A	D	U	L	T		T	A	R	T	A	R	E	A	N
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			I	N	T	E	R	M	I	S	S	I	O	N
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S	T	A	N	D	U	P	A	N	D	B	E			
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O	V	E	R	U	S	E		I	N	E	R	T	L	Y
B		S		R		R		N		R		I		E
E	A	T	O	U	T		A	G	O	N	I	S	E	D

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	2	8	5	1	4	3	6	7
4	6	3	9	7	2	1	8	5
7	1	5	3	8	6	2	9	4
3	4	1	7	5	8	9	2	6
2	8	6	4	9	3	5	7	1
5	7	9	2	6	1	4	3	8
8	3	2	6	4	5	7	1	9
6	9	4	1	2	7	8	5	3
1	5	7	8	3	9	6	4	2

FAITH

A debt beyond repayment

Thirukudandhai Dr. Venkatesh said in a discourse that a mother plays a pivotal role in the life of children. After Dhruva's final breath on earth, messengers of God carried him in a celestial palanquin to the Pole Star, the Dhruva Mandala, specially created by God in admiration of his unwavering devotion. As Dhruva ascended, he noticed another palanquin proceeding ahead of him and wondered how this could be, since he alone had performed intense penance. The divine messengers revealed that the palanquin ahead carried his mother. They explained that she was the true instrument behind his devotion.

In the Yaksha Prashna of the Mahabharata, the Yaksha asks Yudhishthira: "Who or what is greater than Mother Earth?" Yudhishthira replies without hesitation that nothing can be compared to one's own mother. Mother Earth bears all injuries inflicted upon her. Even greater is a human mother, who silently endures not only the physical hardships of nurturing her children but also the harsh words and insults that may come from her own son or daughter. According to Srimad Bhagavatam, when Lord Krishna, at the tender age of eleven, slew the tyrant Kamsa and released His parents Devaki and Vasudeva from imprisonment, His heart was filled not with pride but with deep remorse. Krishna apologised to His parents, lamenting that He had lost eleven precious years in which He had been unable to serve them as a son. He resolved to dedicate the rest of His earthly existence to their service. The Bhagavatam states that even if one were to serve one's parents for a 100 years, such service would never equal the immeasurable sacrifices parents make for their children.

INBRIEF

Airbus opens 5,000-seater tech centre near Bengaluru

Airbus on Friday opened an 8,80,000 sq. ft technology centre that can accommodate up to 5,000 people, in the outskirts of Bengaluru. The move marks a major expansion of its strategic footprint in India, where the European aerospace corporation has already over 30,000 employees. Jürgen Westermeier, President and MD of Airbus in India and South Asia, said the opening of Airbus India Technology Centre represented a strategic acceleration in their journey in India.

NMDC raises iron ore prices by ₹100 a tonne for Baila Lump

NMDC has increased iron ore prices by ₹100 a tonne for Baila Lump and ₹50 for the same quantity of Baila Fines effective March 6. The new per tonne price of Baila Lump is ₹4,800 and Baila Fines ₹4,050. These are FOR prices that are exclusive of royalty, DMF, NMEDT, cess, forest permit fee, transit fee, GST, environmental cess and other taxes, NMDC said in a filing. India's largest producer of the key raw material of steel had previously revised the price on February 10.

Uber ropes in AbhiBus for intercity bus ticketing

Uber on Friday announced its foray into intercity bus ticketing in India in partnership with AbhiBus, a bus ticketing platform owned by Ixigo Group. With this, Uber globally makes its maiden foray into the bus segment and the idea is to cash in on a huge addressable mobility market of $13 billion, of which bus operations alone account for $6-8 billion while the rest is cab services including intra and intercity. The service is available from Friday across the country.

Centre directs refiners to maximise LPG production

Govt. invokes Essential Commodities Act, tells oil companies to prioritise domestic supply; order seeks to re-prioritise allocation of propane, butane streams for cooking gas production

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

Allaying concerns: IOCL issued a statement seeking to reassure consumers that the country has adequate reserves. FILE PHOTO

Despite assuring Indians that the country has "comfortable" stocks of crude, diesel, petrol and LPG, the Centre on Wednesday invoked the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955, directing domestic oil refiners to prioritise the production of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) – a tacit admission that there are supply bottlenecks that could affect distribution in the near future.

The order issued on Wednesday read: "All oil refining companies operating in India shall maximise and ensure that propane and butane streams produced, recovered, fractionated or otherwise available with them are utilised for production of LPG and make it available to the three public sector oil marketing companies."

The order said that all public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) shall ensure that LPG so produced is supplied or marketed solely to consumers of domestic LPG.

The order further states that oil refining companies "shall not divert, utilise, process, crack, convert or otherwise employ propane or butane streams for manufacture of petrochemical products or other such downstream derivatives."

The cooking fuel is formed from a combination of propane and butane and liquefied under pressure. It may contain trace quantities of higher hydrocarbons as well.

"LPG is largely a mixture of propane and butane. These gases are found along with natural gas, but are also produced in the crude oil refining process. The refining process can be tweaked to increase the butane-propane content of the output and rebalance the other output products, thereby boosting the production of liquefied petroleum gas for use as cooking fuel," said Prashant Vasisht, Senior Vice-President at ICRA.

Mr. Vasisht added that the government is prioritising the availability of LPG for household cooking gas use rather than supplying it to vehicles or commercial establishments.

Some 60% of India's LPG is imported, much of it from Persian Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar. With the Strait of Hormuz closed since March 1, LPG imports have been badly hit. OMCs such as Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation produce roughly 40% of India's LPG requirement domestically.

The fuel is then bottled and distributed across the country.

Separately, IOCL issued a statement seeking to reassure consumers that the country has adequate reserves, dismissing social media chatter about a "fuel shortage" as "rumours".

Use cooking fuel judiciously, consumers told

Sangeetha Kandavel
Deepa H. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

With restrictions placed on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) supplies for both domestic and commercial consumers from Thursday night, the public have been advised to use the fuel judiciously.

An oil industry source said single bottle domestic consumers will be allowed to make fresh bookings only after 21 days from the date of last booking and those with double bottles can book only after 30 days. "Consumers can book only using their registered mobile numbers and delivery will be done only if the OTP is given. These are steps to ensure the fuel is used judiciously," said a distributor.

Sources said commercial consumers using 19 kg cylinders were told they will not be given supplies. But after talks, existing customers were given a portion of their requirements.

"Private gas companies do not have stock. We heard supplies to industrial consumers were being stopped," a source said.

Hoteliers in Tamil Nadu said this could cripple their business. They fear distributors may cite shortages to divert supplies to the black market or increase prices, raising operating costs for restaurants and hotels.

"They have slowed the supply of LPG for commercial purposes. From next week, we don't know how we will run our business. Distributors say they don't have any stock," said D. Sreenivasan, owner of the Sree Annapoorna Sree Gowrishankar Hotels, Coimbatore and Honorary President of Tamil Nadu Hotel Association.

"LPG is our primary fuel. Many who are working and living in hostels depend on restaurants for their day-to-day food. Even the hospital sector depends on us for food for patients," added Jegan Damodarasamy, CEO of Sree Annapoorna Sree Gowrishankar Hotels.

Indices fall 1.3% as rising oil prices keep investors on the edge

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Benchmark indices fell 1.3% for the third time in the week on Friday following rising oil prices and supply shocks as Iran blocked passage through the Strait of Hormuz.

The Nifty 50 opened steady at 24,656.40 points, and after trading flat for the better part of the day, fell to the day's low of 24,415.75 points before closing at 24,450.5 points. Sensex, too, fell 1.4% to 78,918.90 points.

Of the 21 sectoral indices on Nifty, only three closed higher than the previous day. Most of the indices were in the negative, shedding nearly 2% of their previous day's close.

About 55% of the stocks that were trading actively on NSE and BSE declined, marking a broad-based negative investor sentiment. This was however slightly better than the ratio on Monday, when the markets lost ground after Iranian strikes began.

The week had just four trading sessions on account of a market holiday for Holi on Tuesday.

"Investors are moving towards traditional safe-haven assets and adopting a cautious stance, awaiting greater clarity. We expect that reassurance over control of the Strait of Hormuz will help stabilise market sentiment. We advise avoiding a panic sell-off and adopting a disciplined, long-term perspective and exercising patience over the next several weeks, as current price levels may offer a strategic entry point for medium- to long-term investors," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited.

High war-risk premiums for airline insurance to raise fares

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air travellers may have to brace for fare hikes of up to ₹20,000 on Gulf routes as insurers slap steep war-risk premiums on airlines, forcing carriers to pay extra for cover against risks such as missile strikes and passenger casualties amid the escalating Iran-Israel conflict.

Alongside rising crude oil prices that are inflating aviation turbine fuel (ATF) costs, mounting operational expenses could ultimately push up domestic airfares as well, industry executives said.

While insurers initially barred airlines from operating flights into parts of the Gulf region, they have since eased the curbs, given the need for repatriation and continued travel demand, an insurance broker told *The Hindu* on condition of anonymity.

The 30% rise in fuel prices may impact raise air fares by 10% to 12% , airline officials warned.

Airlines are now required to notify insurers before operating each flight into West Asia. But coverage can be withdrawn at short notice if the conflict escalates.

Premium calculation
The additional premium being imposed ranges from 0.075% to 0.1% of the aircraft value for every return flight undertaken by an airline, the insurance broker explained.

Fuel prices rise
Airline executives warn of other factors pushing up airfares, including rising fuel prices, which are now up by 30% resulting in a 10%-12% impact on airfare.

Airlines are also grappling with under-utilisation of aircraft, as they are able to secure only a limited number of slots at airports in the Gulf.

War to impact India's gem, jewellery industry

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Key market: India is heavily dependent on the UAE for both exports and raw materials. REUTERS

The Indian gem & jewellery industry is expecting a major impact on trade on account of the escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia with the U.S.-Israel-Iran war spreading to the whole of the oil-rich Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Apex trade body Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said there would be a dual shock to the supply chain.

India is heavily dependent on the UAE for both exports and raw materials. India's Cut and Polished Diamond (CPD) and gold jewellery exports flow to UAE which supplies rough diamonds and bullion to the Indian market.

The war is leading to upstream supply disruptions and posing threats to raw material inflows.

UAE demand hit
Downstream market disruptions have started impacting demand in UAE, a key centre. Rerouting via the Red Sea is rising freight and insurance costs.

As per available data, GCC's share of India's total exports doubled from 14% in FY22 to around 22% in FY25, rising to 36% during April-December 2025.

India's gem & jewellery exports to GCC surged from $5.1 billion in FY22 to $8.3 billion in FY25, showing strong growth. UAE and Saudi Arabia are leading importers driving A majority of the gem and jewellery trade in GCC.

The GCC emerged as a key sourcing hub and its share surged to 32% over the last four years. India's gem and jewellery imports from GCC surged from $16 billion in FY22 to $28 billion in FY25.

Major suppliers
GCC countries supply over 30% of India's gem & jewellery imports providing raw materials and precious metals. In all these, UAE acts as a key hub for gold and diamond imports.

Dubai, key hub
Dubai serves as a key diamond trading hub with bilateral agreements enhancing trade flows. Now that Dubai has come under attack, uncertainties have caused business disruptions. GCC accounts for over 50% of India's gold jewellery exports.

"The situation is a matter of serious concern and we hope for stability and peace to return at the earliest to make it conducive of conducting regular business. Being a key hub for gold bar imports, UAE supports India's jewellery manufacturing and retail sectors," the trade body said.

"From an industry standpoint, the GCC countries and MENA region is not only an important export destination for India's gem and jewellery sector, but also a key hub where Indian companies have established business interests," GJEPC said.

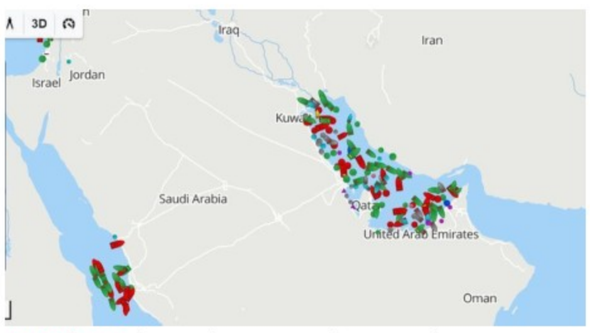
"At present, the industry is closely monitoring the developments. GJEPC is in touch with stakeholders from Industry and Government of India. We will assessany potential impact on India's gem and jewellery exports and urge the Government to take steps accordingly," it added.

Merchant ships stranded near Strait of Hormuz

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

With the conflict in West Asia escalating, merchant ships continue to be stranded upstream of Strait of Hormuz, even as the world awaits the rollout of the U.S. government's promise of deploying its Navy to escort the ships and funding war risk insurance for the vessels.

On Thursday, Sonangal Namibe, a crude oil carrier whose owners and managers are based in Houston, Texas, as per Equasis database, became the ninth ship attacked in the region since the conflict started. Skylight, a ship sanctioned by the U.S. for Iranian links and manned mostly by Indian crew, was also among the ships attacked. Insurance companies are seeking to renegotiate their coverage of ships serving the Persian Gulf.



Fear reigns:: Ships on the Persian Gulf route may have to pay 10 times or 15 times more for insurance coverage.

War risk cover
War risk insurance policies that can cover ship transit through the Strait of Hormuz come with premiums of 1% to 3% of the vessel cost itself, says David Osler, Law and Insurance Editor of Lloyds List Intelligence. This means vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz will now need to pay weekly insurance premiums of nearly the same amount they would pay for an entire year, he says.

Insurance premiums have registered increases across the world since the recent conflict started. Ships on the Persian Gulf route may have to pay 10 times or 15 times more for insurance coverage, which is a basic requirement for any merchant ship to embark on a voyage. Experts talk of affiliative risk - vessels may have owners formally based in neutral countries and the ships may fly flags of other nations but if they have links with not just Iran but also the U.S. and Israel, then they may have to pay much higher premiums.

Governments such as the U.K. had historically footed the bill for such war risk insurance. In December of last year, Denmark passed a law providing such a cover for its ships.

One fifth of the world's oil and gas supplies pass through the strait.

More than 600 ships are estimated to be trapped, out of whom some 250 are oil tankers and gas carriers. At least 10% of the oil and gas ships are estimated to be Indian flagged vessels bound for India. Government-owned Shipping Corporation of India is among the leading ship owners whose vessels have been stranded in the Persian Gulf west of the strait.

Though oil and gas facilities have been hit and some such as Qatar's facilities have been shut down, many Persian Gulf ports continue to be operational.

Lloyds List Intelligence reports that there has been a 95% decrease in the number of ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

No India related ship has transited the strait. SCI has ships with some nine lakh tonne cargo capacity in the area while Sanmar has some 3 lakh tonne.

India has enough fertilizer stocks for kharif, says Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid concerns about the availability of fertilizers for the upcoming kharif season beginning April following trade disruptions on account of war on Iran, the Centre assured fertilizer firms that gas supply to the sector was a top national priority.

The fertilizer department said in a statement here on Friday farmers were the priority of the government and their interests would not be compromised under any circumstance.

"Farmers are encouraged to proceed with kharif preparations without any panic," the Ministry said amid concerns of 40% to 60% dip in natural gas supplies, an essential component for fertilizer output, since last week.

A farmer sprinkles fertilizer in a paddy field in Morigaon.

The Department said the numbers told a clear story of preparedness.

"Benefiting from a lean consumption phase and an aggressive advance stocking strategy, the government has built a formidable buffer of all grades of fertilizers," the Department said, adding there was a 36.5% year-on-year surge in overall fertilizer reserves, rising from 129.85 lakh metric tonne (LMT) on March 6, 2025 to "a commanding 177.31 LMT on Friday.

"This formidable buffer is driven by an unprecedented increase in critical soil nutrients, most notably Di Ammonium Phosphate stocks (now at 25.13 LMT) and a rise in Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium (NPKs) reserves (reaching 55.87 LMT)," the the release added.

WASHINGTON

U.S. likely responsible for strike on Iran school that killed 150: report

AP

The United States is most likely responsible for a February 28 strike that reportedly killed at least 150 people at an elementary school in southern Iran, according to a *New York Times* investigation. Neither Israel nor the U.S. has claimed responsibility for the attack. The U.S. Department of Defense has said it is investigating the incident. AFP

WASHINGTON

Cuba's government will 'fall pretty soon', says Trump in an interview

REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday that "Cuba is gonna fall pretty soon" in a renewed threat to the communist-ruled island already facing a U.S. energy blockade. "They want to make a deal so badly," Mr. Trump told *CNN* in an interview a day after suggesting that he would turn to an unspecified project for Cuba. AFP

WASHINGTON

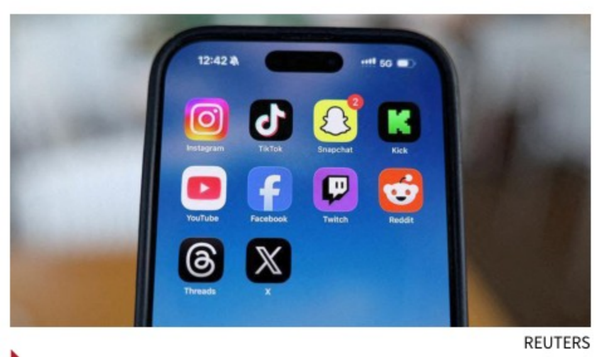
Pentagon slaps supply-chain risk designation on Anthropic AI lab

REUTERS

The Pentagon slapped a formal supply-chain risk designation on artificial intelligence lab Anthropic on Thursday. The "supply-chain risk" label, confirmed in a statement by Anthropic, is effective immediately and bars government contractors from using Anthropic's technology in their work for the U.S. military. REUTERS

JAKARTA

Indonesia to restrict social media access for under-16s, says Minister



REUTERS

Indonesia's Communications Minister Meutya Hafid said on Friday it would ban social media access for children under 16, citing threats from online pornography, cyberbullying, online fraud and internet addiction. Implementation will begin on March 28. She added that the ban will be introduced in stages. AFP

Trump demands 'surrender'; IRGC warns of 'long war'

U.S. President says there would not be a deal with Iran without its 'complete surrender' and selection of an 'acceptable' new leader; Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian says some countries have begun mediation efforts, but asks them to focus on those who 'ignited the conflict'; IRGC warns the enemy should expect 'painful blows'; at least 1,332 people have been killed in Iran in the U.S.-Israeli strikes

Stanly Johny

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday said there would be no deal with Iran "except unconditional surrender", even as the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said they were prepared for a "prolonged war".

"There will be no deal with Iran except unconditional surrender! After that, and the selection of a great & acceptable leader (s), we, and many of our wonderful and very brave allies and partners, will work tirelessly to bring Iran back from the brink of destruction, making it economically bigger, better, and stronger than ever before," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post.

Earlier in the day, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said some countries had begun mediation efforts to end the war, but asked them to focus on those who "ignited the conflict". "Some countries have begun mediation efforts. Let's be clear: we are committed to lasting peace in the region, yet we have no hesitation in defending our nation's dignity and sovereignty, Mr. Pezeshkian, a medical doctor-turned-politician who got elected President in 2024, wrote in social media. "Mediation should address those who underestimated the Iranian people and ignited this conflict," he added.

As the war entered the seventh day on Friday, the U.S. and Israel carried out broad strikes across Iran, where the death toll climbed to 1,332, according to authorities. The Israeli military claimed to have achieved 'near-complete air superiority" in Iran. Israel also launched massive attacks in Lebanon where its troops are fighting Hezbollah, a Shia militia group.

Multiple hits

Iran's state media reported on Friday, citing satellite images, that Iranian attacks "destroyed" several U.S. military radars in the UAE and Jordan.

"One such radar, supporting an American THAAD missile battery at Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan, appears to have been hit and destroyed in the opening days of the war, according to satellite imagery captured Monday," claimed a Press TV report.

Clear stance: Donald Trump speaks about the Iran war in the East Room of the White House, in Washington on Thursday. AP

Iran also targeted the Israeli embassy in Bahrain and Qatar's al-Udeid U.S. airbase overnight, according to semi-official Fars News Agency. A key oil refinery in Bahrain got hit on Thursday. Manama said it shot down multiple drones and missiles overnight.

Israeli media reported on Friday that Iranian missiles hit southern parts of the country.

An IRGC spokesperson said Iran was "fully prepared for a prolonged war" and was set to introduce a new set of strategic weaponry. "These technologies have not yet been deployed on a large scale. The enemy should expect painful blows in every upcoming operational wave," Brigadier General Ali Mohammad Naeini said.

The IRGC has launched the 22nd wave of Operation True Promise 4 with a barrage of Khorramshahr 4, Khaibar and Fattah missiles targeting the "heart of the occupied territories," claimed the state media.

Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf, Iran's Parliament Speaker, claimed on Friday that Iranian attacks forced the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier to retreat. "What a fuss they kicked up over the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln to put pressure on us, but this so-called bride of praise, in its first encounter with Iranian missiles and drones, abandoned the battlefield and retreated," he wrote in a social media post. "The navy that was supposed to defend the security and stability of America's allies can't even defend itself against a few drones and takes to its heels in flight!"

'Long prepared for war'

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the country was "long prepared for this war."

"Iran's Powerful Armed Forces are ensuring that it becomes a quagmire for whomever chooses to pursue it," he wrote in a social media post. "We negotiated twice with this U.S. Administration. Both times, we were attacked in the middle of talks. It bears full responsibility for bloodshed."

Earlier in an interview with a American TV, when he was asked whether Iran was afraid of a ground invasion by U.S. forces, Mr. Araghchi said, "We are waiting for them."

According to Mr. Araghchi, the U.S.'s "Plan A for a clean rapid military victory failed".

He added: "Your Plan B will be even bigger failure. The truth: Chance for unique deal burned after the 'America Last' cabal obscured "significant progress" we made in negotiations. 'Israel First' always means 'America Last'."

War clouds

Escalating conflict: Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli air strike in Beirut's southern suburbs on Friday. At least 217 people have been killed and 798 wounded in Lebanon since the start of a new war between Israel and Hezbollah, Lebanon's Health Ministry said. AFP

Boots vs Bots: the task of finding fighters for the new American war

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George

A ceremonial event to honour American veterans at the White House, and the war of nerves between the Pentagon and AI giant Anthropic over the control and deployment of autonomous weapons systems amid the new West Asia war launched by the U.S. and Israel are connected by a shared question – where to find the fighters.

On March 2, three soldiers – Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Terry P. Richardson, honoured for saving 85 fellow soldiers under enemy fire in Vietnam; Master Sgt. Roderick W. Edmonds, posthumously recognised for shielding Jewish prisoners of war from Nazi guards in the Second World War; and Staff Sgt. Michael H. Ollis, posthumously honoured for absorbing a suicide bomber's blast to save a Polish officer in Afghanistan – were awarded the Medal of Honor by President Donald Trump.

However, the classic transfiguration of a soldier's death into an act of valour depends on a society willing to receive it. In the U.S., the cult of individualism is celebrated by the state and society alike. Social media has made the cost-benefit analysis of wars more democratic, and the loss of American lives is difficult to defend.

The question of who fights and who profits from wars has become an open public argument in the U.S. The manner in which war supporters were skewered by online influencers after many of them praised the sacrifice of the six American soldiers killed in 'Operation Epic Fury' is instructive. The vertical propaganda of sacrifice for the nation – spoken by strategic elites in the name of national interest – is severely challenged, and there is no restoring that narrative in the U.S. In contrast, consider the death of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of Iran, who possibly wanted it that way: in Shia theology, revenge, sacrifice and martyrdom are integral.

All hands: An Uncle Sam American military recruitment poster used extensively in the World Wars to attract recruits. AFP

Size of U.S. military

After the U.S. discontinued mandatory draft in 1973, the staffing of its voluntary military has gone through many policy questions and challenges. Currently, the size of the U.S. military is the lowest in its history – from 12.2 million during the Second World War to 1.4 million at the end of the Cold War to 1.1 million now. In 2018, a study estimated that 77% of young adults in the U.S. are ineligible to serve, disqualified by obesity, educational deficits, criminal records, or drug use. After several years of falling short of recruitment targets, the U.S. military had a good year in 2025, meeting them only after substantial pay increases and the introduction of preparatory courses for recruits who could not meet baseline academic or fitness standards.

Among the measures the U.S. tried in order to work around its recruitment challenges was privatisation of war itself: more than half of the personnel the U.S. deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan were contractors – their casualties not even tracked by the Pentagon. The U.S. has long offered non-citizens an expedited path to naturalisation through military service; between 2011 and 2015, the Army would have failed its active-duty recruitment goals in nearly every year without non-citizen enlistments. As of early 2024, more than 40,000 foreign nationals were serving in active and reserve components of the armed forces, with an estimated 115,000 foreign-born veterans living in the U.S. From 2008 to 2016, under the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest programme, the U.S. recruited non-citizens with critical language and medical skills from abroad in exchange for an expedited path to citizenship, enlisting over 10,000 before it was wound down on national security grounds.

Motivating people to give up their lives is no easy task, and capitalist societies find it harder than most. It is the lower end of the middle class who enlists, and it is poorer regions and communities that recruiters target. The richest are not sending their children to the battlefield. Religious warriors fight for the afterlife, currency that individualism lacks. Where the pursuit of individual happiness is both means and end, a soldier's work becomes, in material terms, just a job – like any other.

The mechanisms of war become a matter of public interest and domestic politics primarily through human casualties. This question – of American soldiers fighting wars they do not necessarily need to, or benefit from – has been central to the anti-war argument that now turns out to have been mere theatre in Mr. Trump's America First nationalism.

America First nationalism complicated the soldier identity in U.S. society by undermining non-citizen drafting. The fusion of citizen and soldier has been a classic American ideal, but capitalism had dealt with reality through its own mechanisms of reward – war contracting, and the drafting of non-citizens with the promise of citizenship. The prospect of machine soldiers offers the possibility of completely delinking the fighter from the domestic political process, making war a wholly technological, capitalist enterprise. Nobody will mourn for the machines; the President will not be required to read speeches in their honour.

Justice Dept. releases Epstein files with claims against Trump

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Justice Department published additional FBI documents on Thursday describing interviews with a woman who said President Donald Trump sexually assaulted her after she was introduced to him by Jeffrey Epstein.

The documents had not been made public under previous file releases related to the late convicted sex offender because they were mistakenly marked "duplicative," it said.

The documents released on Thursday include descriptions of multiple 2019 interviews the FBI held with the woman, who alleged she was assaulted by both Epstein and Mr. Trump while she was between 13 and 15 years old.

Protesters with masks depicting Donald Trump and Jeffrey Epstein stage a demonstration near the White House on Thursday. REUTERS

In one interview, the woman said Epstein took her to "either New York or New Jersey" and introduced her to Mr. Trump. She told investigators that she bit Mr. Trump as he attempted to force her to perform oral sex on him.

The woman said she and people close to her received threatening calls over the years demanding she keep quiet that she believed were related to Epstein.

House rejects resolution on Trump's Iran war powers

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

The House narrowly rejected a resolution on Thursday to curb President Donald Trump's powers in the Iran war, an early sign of unease in Congress over the rapidly widening conflict that is reordering U.S. priorities.

While the tally in the House, 212-219, was expected to be tight, the outcome provided a clarifying snapshot of political support for, and opposition to, the U.S.-Israel military operation and Mr. Trump's rationale for bypassing Congress, which alone has the power to declare war.

HIGH PRAISE

Axar will end up as one of India's greatest players, feels Gavaskar

EMMANUAL YOGINI

At the highest level, temperament separates the greats from the good. With his batting and bowling, Axar Patel is going to be one of India's greatest players. We had Ravindra Jadeja before him and Axar is filling that void well. His bowling needs a little more polish. That will come with experience — Sunil Gavaskar.

THE MAGICIAN

'It's like having a genie, you just rub the lamp and out comes Bumrah'

FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

Team India doesn't understand how lucky it is to have him (Jasprit Bumrah) in its ranks. It is just proven time and time again. Regardless of the format, you just give him the ball and he wins you games. It is like having a genie, you just rub the lamp and out comes Bumrah — former South Africa captain Faf du Plessis.

CHANGE IN FORTUNES

Samson among eight nominees for Player-of-the-Tournament award

EMMANUAL YOGINI

India opener Sanju Samson figured in the shortlist for the T20 World Cup Player-of-the-Tournament award announced by the ICC on Friday. The other nominees are England's Will Jacks, Pakistan's Sahibzada Farhan, SA's Lungi Ngidi and Aiden Markram, NZ's Rachin Ravindra and Tim Seifert, and USA's Shadley van Schalkwyk.

MANTRA FOR SUCCESS

Team must believe in Abhishek, he must believe in himself: Kapil

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Kapil Dev said that the Indian think-tank should retain Abhishek Sharma for the T20 World Cup final despite his poor run of form in the tournament. "Just believe in your team, and the management should believe in the player. Abhishek should believe in himself that 'I can perform and I will perform'," Kapil said.

Men in Blue overcome semifinal bogey in a nervy encounter

Suryakumar's men come up with a vastly improved fielding display to edge Brook & Co. in a run-fest at the Wankhede; the home team has found its groove and now has to contend with New Zealand in Sunday's summit clash at Ahmedabad

T20 WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
AHMEDABAD

Semifinals, the penultimate hurdle in a competition, can be the most taxing of endeavours. The need to be in the 'here' and 'now', and not to think about the impending final, is the first challenge. Second is the fear that all the hard work leading up to this moment, could be undone against a strong rival or an unfancied opposition.

India has had a love-hate equation with the last-four stage, especially in ICC events organised at home. In the 50-over World Cups, be it 1987 or 1996, the host fell in the semifinals. A similar fate awaited in the 2016 ICC T20 World Cup.

However, in the 2011 ODI World Cup, M.S. Dhoni's men won the trophy. But in 2023, the summit clash against Australia proved fatal.

Now, Suryakumar Yadav's men get another chance to seize an ICC silverware in their backyard. On Thursday, the semifinal bogey was dealt with, albeit nervously, against England in the T20 World Cup at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

Upping the ante: Hardik proved his all-round value yet again on the big stage. EMMANUAL YOGINI

In a battle of runs, there were 34 sixes, India wrested a seven-run win. Overall, 499 runs were scored, and within this big picture, India kept finding heroes.

If in setting the target, Sanju Samson (89) was the force-multiplier, Shivam Dube and Tilak Varma also played a vital hand. When it was India's turn to defend, there was always the masterly skill of constriction and extraction that Jasprit Bumrah excels in.

The spearhead's one for 33, was remarkable, and when he conceded just six in the 18th over, Bumrah flipped scoreboard pressure back onto the visitors despite Jacob Bethell's (105) stunning innings. Hardik Pandya then gave away nine in the 19th over and claimed a wicket. And when Dube stepped in for the last over, Harry Brook's men needed 30, which proved steep.

This will be a contest for which the Indians would be remembered for their fielding. Having shelled catches in earlier outings, the Men in Blue found a redemptive arc. Even as Varun Chakaravarthy leaked 64 runs and extras featured 10 wides, amends were made on the turf.

Axar Patel took a skier, caught another one diving full length, and then pouched one metres before the rope and relayed it to Dube. In the last over, Hardik's bullseye throw left Bethell short of the crease. India has found its groove, and now there is New Zealand to contend with during Sunday's final here at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

Lakshya proves too good for Li, reaches semifinals

Smooth sailing: Lakshya was in his element and came through in straight games. AP

BADMINTON

Sports Bureau

Lakshya Sen produced an impressive display to defeat China's Li Shi Feng in the men's singles quarterfinals of the All England Open badminton championships in Birmingham on Friday and seal a spot in the last-four stage.

Lakshya brushed aside former champion Li 21-13, 21-16 in exactly one hour.

The Indian also avenged his loss to Li in the same stage of the championship last year.

Lakshya ruled the early phase of the opening game and opened up a five-point lead at the first break.

However, Li fought back and gained a 15-13 lead.

However, Lakshya notched up six points on the bounce and secured the opening game.

The second game too started on an even keel with reigning Asian Games champion Li matching Lakshya.

Both the shuttlers exchanged the lead on numerous occasions before the Indian found a flurry of points to wrap up the tie.

Dream run

This was also Lakshya's second victory over a top-10 Chinese opponent in the BWF Super 1000 tournament.

He had stunned defending champion and World No. 1 Shi Yuqi in the opening round.

Lakshya is the sole Indian remaining in the competition.

India's doubles charge ended on Thursday after Olympian Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila retired from their mixed doubles match.

Lakshya will take on the winner of the encounter between Japan's Koki Watanabe and Canada's Victor Lai for a place in the final.

Vitidsarn to meet Lin

The other semifinal will feature Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn and Taiwan's Lin Chun-yi.

Vitidsarn beat Alwi Farhan of Indonesia 21-17, 21-12.

Lin got the better of France's Christo Popov 21-18, 21-14.

A 'true surface' expected for the title decider

Amol Karhadkar
AHMEDABAD

A mixed-soil surface combining red and black soil is set to be used for the ICC T20 World Cup final between co-host India and New Zealand at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Sunday.

The Hindu understands that Pitch No. 6 on the centre square has been shortlisted by the local curators in consultation with the International Cricket Council (ICC) for the title clash.

South Africa had defeated Canada in the only previous match played on this wicket in this tournament. Officials are confident the strip will provide a 'true surface' for the contest.

The ICC had shortlisted four pitches on the centre block for the tournament, with at least one match having already been played on each of them.

Showdown awaits: India skipper Suryakumar on his arrival at Ahmedabad on Friday. VIJAY SONEJI

Phillips unperturbed

New Zealand all-rounder Glenn Phillips, however, said the visitors were not overly concerned about the nature of the track.

"Obviously there are things going around about pitches being too batter-friendly and things like that, but it's an entertaining brand of cricket that we want to play," Phillips said on Friday evening after New Zealand's training session.

"The pitches at different stadiums play differently each time, so whatever we see, we will try and adapt to. If that means lots of runs, then that means lots of runs, but if it means it's going to be a little bit of a scrap, we are up for that as well."

After beginning the tournament on relatively slower tracks, India's preference for flatter pitches offering true bounce has largely been met since the Super Eight stage.

Bitter experience

The Motera pitch had previously come under scrutiny ahead of the 2023 ODI World Cup final, when India opted for a black-soil pitch against Australia – a decision that backfired as the host lost the match. The surface was subsequently rated "average" by the match adjudicators.

Bethell — from a spectator to a spectacle-creator

S. Shrivathsan
CHENNAI

Not many T20 World Cup tales are as remarkable as Jacob Bethell's.

About three-and-a-half years ago, Bethell, a bubbly boy then, had been among those sent into a frenzy in the Adelaide Oval stands. After all, England had delivered a statement of dominance to coast to a 10-wicket victory over India in the semifinal of the 2022 ICC T20 World Cup.

Little would he have known that he would one day own the very stage he watched the show on. That too in a few years' time.

Bethell flayed the Indian attack to all parts of the Wankhede Stadium. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Stunning growth

In a clear reflection of his stunning growth, Bethell went from a spectator to a spectacle-creator in a World Cup last-four clash. Against India in Mumbai on Thursday, Bethell the batter put on an exhibition with a masterful century, a performance which Bethell the fan would have gone gaga over.

The 22-year-old, in an interaction with the ICC ahead of the final-four encounter, had spoken about recreating the magic of 2022. "Tom Prest (the then under-19 captain) and I were in Australia and watched the semifinal live. That feeling was surreal... seeing the men get over the line. Hopefully, we can replicate it," Bethell had said.

The left-hander made the Indians, including common members of the 2022 and 2026 batches (Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel and Arshdeep Singh), hold their breath during the magnificent chase. Though England fell agonisingly short, Bethell's knock will be etched in memory.

Coulthard calls for patience on new F1 rules and regulations

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Former Formula One driver David Coulthard called for patience regarding the new F1 rules introduced this year.

The new hybrid engine formula with 50% electric power has been criticised by a few drivers on the current grid, as the cars require a lot of energy management.

Speaking ahead of the Australian GP, the first race of the season, the 13-time Grand Prix winner felt F1 would get on top of things sooner rather than later.

"I'm nervously excited. When I say that, the nervousness is that we hear rumours that Aston Martin may have difficulty completing the Grand Prix or starting the Grand Prix, things that could be taken as negative, but no great engineering challenge was overcome in a few months," said Coulthard to *The Hindu*.

"It takes time to find [solutions for] engineering challenges. I think that all the teams are here, including an 11th team, which is a testament to the engineering solutions Formula One finds. One thing's for sure, wherever we are at the beginning of the season, it will be significantly different and better at the end of the season," he added.

Speed merchant: Piastri whizzing around the Albert Park track in his McLaren on Friday. AP

With all the talk about drivers lifting and coasting to conserve battery power, Coulthard recalled that in the past, drivers had to manage fuel consumption, but it wasn't viewed negatively.

"There's no question that Formula One is and should be seen as the pinnacle of the sport, not only in engineering, but in driving terms. I think we just have to get on with the engineering challenge and see where the racing lands. This has to be the fastest and most exciting form of racing. So let's wait for judgment until we see that," remarked the former McLaren driver.

Reuters adds from Melbourne: Oscar Piastri delighted the home fans by putting McLaren top of the time-sheets in second free practice for the Australian GP on Friday.

Hometown hero Piastri lapped Albert Park in one minute, 19.729 seconds on a sunny afternoon, 0.214 seconds ahead of Mercedes drivers Kimi Antonelli and George Russell. The Ferrari duo of Lewis Hamilton and Charles Leclerc were fourth and fifth quickest.

Earlier in the day, Leclerc led a Ferrari 1-2 in FP1, posting 1:20.267, nearly a half-second quicker than Hamilton.

(Watch Formula One 2026 on FanCode).

INBRIEF

James breaks Abdul-Jabbar's NBA all-time field goal record

LeBron James surpassed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for the most field goals in NBA history on Thursday but his night ended with a disheartening loss for the LA Lakers. A 12-foot jumper in the first quarter gave James 15,838 goals in his unprecedented 23rd NBA season. Abdul-Jabbar had 15,837 baskets when the skyhook-wielding big man ended his 20-year career in 1989 as the league's career-scoring leader. Karl Malone is a distant third with 13,528 field goals.

Rajasthan Regals claims the PGTI's 72 The League

Rajasthan Regals dominated the proceedings to be crowned champion of the inaugural DP World PGTI's 72 The League with a 12-3 win over table-topper UP Prometheans in the finals at the Qutab Golf Course in New Delhi on Friday.

The result: Final: Rajasthan Regals bt UP Prometheans 12-3 [**Singles:** Jairaj Singh Sandhu bt Shaurya Bhattacharya 4 & 3, Akshay Sharma bt Arjun Prasad 2 & 1; **foursomes:** Aryaman Mohan & Yuvraj Singh bt Joshua Seale & Arjun Sharma 1-up; **fourballs:** Michele Ortolani & Ajeetesh Sandhu lost to Abhinav Lohan & Manoj S 3 & 2, S. Chikkarangappa & Dhruv Sheoran bt Gaurav Pratap Singh & Pranav Mardikar 2 & 1].

Tottenham slips deeper into relegation trouble

The spectre of Premier League relegation loomed ever larger for Tottenham Hotspur on Thursday after a 3-1 home defeat by Crystal Palace left it teetering just above the drop zone. Spurs have 29 points from 29 games, one more than Nottingham Forest and West Ham United.

The result: Tottenham 1 (Solanke 34) lost to Crystal Palace 3 (Sarr 40-pen, 45+7, Strand Larsen 45+1).

Pacers excel as Australia seizes advantage

Jemimah's fifty the only bright spot for India as the other batters falter; Perry comes to the host's rescue after debutant Sayali's double strike

INDIA IN AUSTRALIA

Press Trust of India
PERTH

Jemimah Rodrigues fought bravely with a fifty but the other India batters failed to counter the swing generated by Australian pacers Annabel Sutherland and debutant Lucy Hamilton, getting bundled out for 198 on the opening day of the one-off day-night Test here on Friday.

Jemimah (52, 84b, 7x4) looked fluent but did not have much backing from the other batters.

The Indian pacers maintained a fine line to nick off three Aussie top-order batters as the home side finished at 96 for three at close.

Gritty effort: Jemimah waged a lone battle for India with a half-century. GETTY IMAGES

Right decision

The Aussies elected to field, and the decision proved right by Sutherland (four for 46) and Hamilton (three for 31), who bowled at a fair clip and produced disconcerting movement.

Left-arm pacer Hamilton struck the first blow, removing Smriti Mandhana in the sixth over itself, with a peach that came into the left-hander.

Shafali Verma (35, 48b, 6x4) looked good for more, but Sutherland managed to move the ball just the right amount to find the outside edge.

Debutant Pratika Rawal (18), skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (19) and Deepti Sharma (7) departed without making any significant contributions, as India slipped to 107 for five. A 43-run stand between Jemimah and Richa Ghosh (11, 41b) for the sixth wicket carried India to 150.

However, Jemimah and Richa fell to Hamilton and Ash Gardner as India once again found themselves in trouble at 150 for seven. A 38-run alliance between the two other debutants – Kashvee Gautam (34 n.o, 54b, 3x4) and Sayali Satghare (7) – for the ninth wicket helped India move closer to 200.

Sayali (8-1-24-2) had a great start to her career when she castled Aussie opener Georgia Voll (2) with a prodigiously swinging delivery.

But Ellyse Perry (43 batting) and Sutherland (20 batting) helped Australia recover from 58 for three.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS

Smriti Mandhana b Hamilton 4 *(13b)*, Shafali Verma c Mooney b Sutherland 35 *(48b, 6x4)*, Pratika Rawal c Hamilton b Sutherland 18 *(43b, 3x4)*, Jemimah Rodrigues c Gardner b Hamilton 52 *(84b, 7x4)*, Harmanpreet Kaur b Brown 19 *(15b, 4x4)*, Deepti Sharma c Mooney b Sutherland 7 *(30b, 1x4)*, Richa Ghosh c King b Gardner 11 *(41b, 1x4)*, Sneh Rana c McGrath b Hamilton 5 *(8b, 1x4)*, Kashvee Gautam (not out) 34 *(54b, 3x4)*, Sayali Satghare c Mooney b Sutherland 7 *(35b, 1x4)*, Kranti Gaud c Sutherland b Brown 1 *(5b)*; Extras (lb-3, w-2): 5; Total (in 62.4 overs): 198.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-18 (Smriti, 5.2 overs), 2-54 (Shafali, 15.1), 3-61 (Pratika, 19.1), 4-84 (Harmanpreet, 22.5), 5-107 (Deepti, 33.1), 6-150 (Richa, 44.6), 7-150 (Jemimah, 45.4), 8-157 (Sneh, 49.1), 9-195 (Sayali, 61.1).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING

Brown 12.4-0-41-2, Hamilton 11-3-31-3, Sutherland 17-5-46-4, McGrath 4-2-15-0, Gardner 15-3-39-1, King 3-0-23-0.

AUSTRALIA — 1ST INNINGS

Georgia Voll b Sayali 2 *(8b)*, Phoebe Litchfield c Jemimah b Kranti 9 *(39b, 1x4)*, Ellyse Perry (batting) 43 *(62b, 7x4)*, Alyssa Healy c Jemimah b Sayali 13 *(27b, 1x4)*, Annabel Sutherland (batting) 20 *(29b, 3x4)*; Extras (b-2, lb-4, nb-3): 9; Total (for three wkts. in 27 overs): 96.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-2 (Voll, 2.2), 2-31 (Litchfield, 11.6), 3-58 (Healy, 19.3).

INDIA BOWLING

Sayali 8-1-24-2, Kranti 11-2-28-1, Kashvee 7-1-29-0, Sneh 1-0-9-0.

Toss: Australia.

Maclaren and Bagan unleash mayhem

ISL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Defending champion Mohun Bagan Super Giant proved far too strong for Odisha FC as it downed the latter 5-1 in an Indian Super League match at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Friday.

Australian striker Jamie Maclaren played the key role in Bagan's dominant display, scoring four goals while registering his first ISL hat-trick. Spanish defender Alberto Rodriguez netted the other goal, while Rahim Ali scored the lone consolation for Odisha.

Carrying momentum from its 5-1 victory over Mohammedan Sporting in the previous match, Bagan started aggressively against a hesitant Odisha side. The pressure paid off in the 14th minute when a brilliant move saw Dimitri Petratos release Subhasish Bose behind the Odisha defence with a clever backheel. The left-back surged forward and delivered a curling cross that Maclaren headed home.

Wrecker-in-chief: Maclaren scored four goals on the night. PTI

The Kolkata outfit doubled the lead in the 24th minute, with Maclaren finishing off a move set up by Liston Colaco. Soon after, Rodriguez made it 3-0 with a spectacular 35-yard piledriver. Odisha pulled one back in the 43rd minute when Rahim Ali finished a counter-attack.

Maclaren completed his hat-trick in first-half stoppage time from another Colaco assist, before adding his fourth goal late in the second half to seal an emphatic 5-1 victory.

With this big win, Bagan stayed at the top of the standings (12 points from four matches) while Odisha FC suffered its first defeat and remained on two points from three games.

The results:
Mohun Bagan Super Giant 5 (Jamie Maclaren 14, 24, 45+1, 87, Alberto Rodriguez 41) bt Odisha FC 1 (Rahim Ali 43).
At Jamshedpur: Jamshedpur FC 1 (Stephen Eze 57) bt Inter Kashi FC 0.

Vaishnavi and Ankita sail ahead

Sports Bureau

Third seed Vaishnavi Adkar and eighth seed Ankita Raina continued their impressive run at the ITF W35 in Kalaburagi on Friday.

In the singles quarterfinals, Vaishnavi defeated Elina Nepliy 6-1, 6-3, and Ankita whipped Evgeniya Burdina 6-0, 6-2.

The Indian duo later teamed up in the doubles semifinal and took out Sonal Patil and Bela Tamhankar 7-6(5), 6-2.

The results: Quarterfinals: Vaishnavi Adkar bt Elina Nepliy 6-1, 6-3; Ankita Raina bt Evgeniya Burdina 6-0, 6-2; Thasaporn Naklo bt Anchisa Chanta 6-4, 6-1; Jasmijn Gimbrere bt Maayan Laron 6-2, 6-2.

Vaishnavi in action.

Doubles: Semifinals: Vaishnavi & Ankita bt Sonal Patil & Bela Tamhankar 7-6(5), 6-2; Akanksha Dileep Nitture & Soha Sadiq bt Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi & Michika Ozeki 6-7(7), 6-0, [10-5].

Cashing in: Aravindh got lucky as van Foreest failed to spot a simple tactic in the endgame. PRAGUECHESSFESTIVAL.COM

Aravindh beats van Foreest; Gukesh held to a draw again

CHESS

Press Trust of India
PRAGUE

Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram defeated Netherland's Jorden van Foreest but World champion D. Gukesh's winless run with another draw, this time against Vincent Keymer of Germany in the eighth and penultimate round of the Prague International chess festival. Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov leapfrogged to the pole position following a victory over local favourite David Navara. With 5.5 points in his kitty, Abdusattorov enjoys a half point lead over van Foreest.

Navara on 4.5 is third while Aravindh elevated himself to joint fourth on four points with Keymer and Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran.

Abdusattorov benefitted through a Bishop blunder by Navara from a rook and minor piece endgame and Aravindh got lucky as van Foreest also failed to spot a simple tactic in the endgame.

In the challengers' section, 16-year old Czech International Master Finek Vanclav made another stride forward towards winning the title after holding Grandmaster Surya Shekhar Ganguly to a draw.

Divya Deshmukh drew with Nemec Jachym.

The results (eighth round):
Masters: Nodirbek Yakubboev (3.5) drew with Parham Maghsoodloo (4); D. Gukesh (2.5) drew with Vincent Keymer (4); Jorden van Foreest (5) lost to Aravindh Chithambaram (4); David Navara (4.5) lost to Nodirbek Abdusattorov (5.5); Hans Moke Niemann (3.5) bt David Anton Guijarro (3.5).
Challengers: Zhu Jiner (2.5) drew with Thomas Beerdsen (4); Daniil Yuffa (5) bt Jonas Bjerre Buhl (3.5); Finek Vanclav (5.5) drew with Surya Shekhar Ganguly (3); Benjamin Gledura (4.5) bt Hrbek Stepan (3.5); Divya Deshmukh (4) drew with Nemec Jachym (4.5).

Lohakare the favourite in javelin

Sports Bureau

Shivam Lohakare and Kishore Kumar Jena would be in the spotlight in the men's javelin throw at the two-day Indian Open Throws competition in Patiala over the weekend, while shot-putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor would get a chance to assess his preparations ahead of a busy international season.

With the AFI deciding not to consider performances in the event for Commonwealth or Asian Games selections, it will be more about the athletes tracking their progress and getting close to a direct qualification mark than .

SBI gets the better of DTDC SC

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

State Bank of India defeated DTDC SC by 54 runs in the KSCA Group II, Division I league in Bengaluru.

The scores: NR Sports Group 152/7 in 20 overs (Tushar Singh 51) lost to Central Excise & Customs 156/4 in 19.2 overs. Railway Institute South, Hubli 162 in 20 overs bt HAL SC 144/9 in 20 overs (Sanjay Kumar 4/24). State Bank of India 260/6 in 20 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 71, Sidharth Akhil 62, S. Shivaraj 70 n.o.) bt DTDC SC 206/9 in 20 overs (Pranav Bhatia 44 n.o., D. Avinash 51, H.S. Sharath 5/34).

Govt. reiterates desire to built sports complex in Anekal taluk

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reiterated on Friday, as part of his Budget speech, the government's desire to build an international-standard sports complex comprising a 80,000-capacity cricket stadium.

The proposal to construct the sports complex within KHB Surya City in Anekal taluk was first cleared in August 2025 at an estimated cost of ₹1650 crore, with the funding to come from the Karnataka Housing Board entirely.

It came close on the heels of the stampede at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in June during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL title-winning celebrations that killed 11 people.

The Chinnaswamy Stadium, however, has secured conditional approval to host IPL matches in the upcoming season that begins later this month.

Centre of excellence

Among other proposals in the budget – without any earmarking of funds – were a centre of excellence for kayaking and canoeing in Hesaraghatta lake, a cycling velodrome in Dattagalli (Mysuru), a sports science centre in Kalaburagi, a sports training hostel in Virajpet and a wrestling arena in Belagundi (Belagavi).

The budget document also stated that sports infrastructure will be upgraded in Tumakuru at the cost of ₹3 crore and that taluk stadiums will come up in Bangarapet, Muddebihala (Vijayapura), Guledagudda (Bagalkot), Kanakapura, Kukanur (Koppal) and Maski (Raichur) at ₹2 crore each.

Marathons galore

National-level marathons have been announced under the 'Sashaktha Karnataka' programme at ₹10 lakh each in Belagavi, Gokarna, Chitradurga and Hampi. District-level marathons are set to be organised in the name of famous sports personalities in 10 districts at ₹4 lakh each.

LIVE TELECAST

Australia Women vs India Women: One-off Test, day 2, Star Sports 3 & JioHotstar, 10.50 a.m.

Formula One: Australian GP (Qualifying), F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 10.30 a.m.

I-League: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 4 & 7 p.m.

ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 5 & 7.30 p.m.

LaLiga: FanCode, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)

Serie A: DAZN, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2 & LIV, 8 & 11 p.m.

Tandon eyes 2026 Asian Games after the heartbreak of 2022

SQUASH

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Ramit Tandon says he is keen to play more tournaments at home this year as he targets a place in the Indian men's squash team for the Asian Games to be held in Japan in September.

Currently Indian No. 2 in the Professional Squash Association (PSA) rankings at 39 behind Abhay Singh (WR 27), the 34-year-old will begin his domestic campaign at the JSW Indian Open in Mumbai from March 18 to 22.

Speaking to *The Hindu* on Friday, Tandon said competing at home was always special though opportunities had been limited in recent years.

"It's always wonderful playing at home. The issue is that we don't get to do it frequently. But with squash making it to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, we are seeing a big boost.

"There was a PSA event in Indore at Daly College in November last year, which was the first glass-court event after a gap of a few years following Covid."

Having missed selection for the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou, Tandon hopes to make the squad this time when the Games are held in Aichi_Nagoya.

"The Asian Games is the biggest event for us this year.

"India has always been a strong contender and, as the defending champion in the men's team event, we will be looking to do well again. There will be a training camp cum selection trials in June," said Tandon.

He also felt Indian men's squash was currently in a strong phase.

"I can't remember the last time we had four male players (Abhay, Tandon, Veer Chotrani ranked 45, and S. Velavan 49) inside the world's top 50."

On qualifying for the 2028 Olympics, Tandon said it was still early.

"With PSA rankings changing every week, it gives players an opportunity to push up," he said.

He added that he now prefers a lighter schedule. "I don't want to play back-to-back tournaments. I want to play about 12 events at most, with training blocks in between."

What it means: Tandon says competing at home has always been special though opportunities have been limited in recent years. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

PROPERTYPLUS
HOMES AND REAL ESTATE NEWS | THE HINDU
thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens

The cost of delay

How construction slowdown erodes value and pushes real estate towards predictability

Abhijith R. Priyan

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

India's real estate sector is evolving rapidly, yet one persistent issue continues to undermine its long-term value: construction delays. Beyond missed handover dates, delays create a ripple effect of uncertainty that erodes financial value, weakens buyer confidence, and increases systemic risk across the ecosystem.

Traditional construction models rely heavily on informal labour structures and reactive decision-making.

Regulatory approvals and compliance processes further complicate timelines, while fluctuating material costs and financing pressures amplify execution risk. Without integrated planning and transparent monitoring, even minor disruptions can cascade into months of delay.

Delays directly inflate project costs. Interest during construction continues to accrue, while input costs rise due to inflation and supply volatility.

Extended construction timelines force buyers to juggle EMIs and rent simultaneously, triggering frustration and legal disputes.

The industry is now witnessing a shift towards process-driven, technology-enabled construction.

Digital planning tools, centralised knowledge centres, real-time project tracking, and milestone-based execution frameworks are helping reduce uncertainty at the design and build stages.

Standardisation allows developers to minimise variability and control costs. Modern construction methods such as prefabrication and modular components further improve speed and accuracy.

One of the most powerful ways to mitigate value risk is transparency. Tech-enabled construction platforms that provide real-time progress tracking, cost visibility, and clear communication help align all stakeholders.

When timelines are predictable, and progress is measurable, financing becomes more efficient, buyer confidence improves, and asset valuations stabilise.

By embracing structured planning, technology-driven execution, and buyer-centric transparency, the sector can move away from uncertainty-led value erosion towards delivery-led value creation. In India's next phase of real estate growth, predictability will define profitability.

The writer is founder and CEO of buildAhome.

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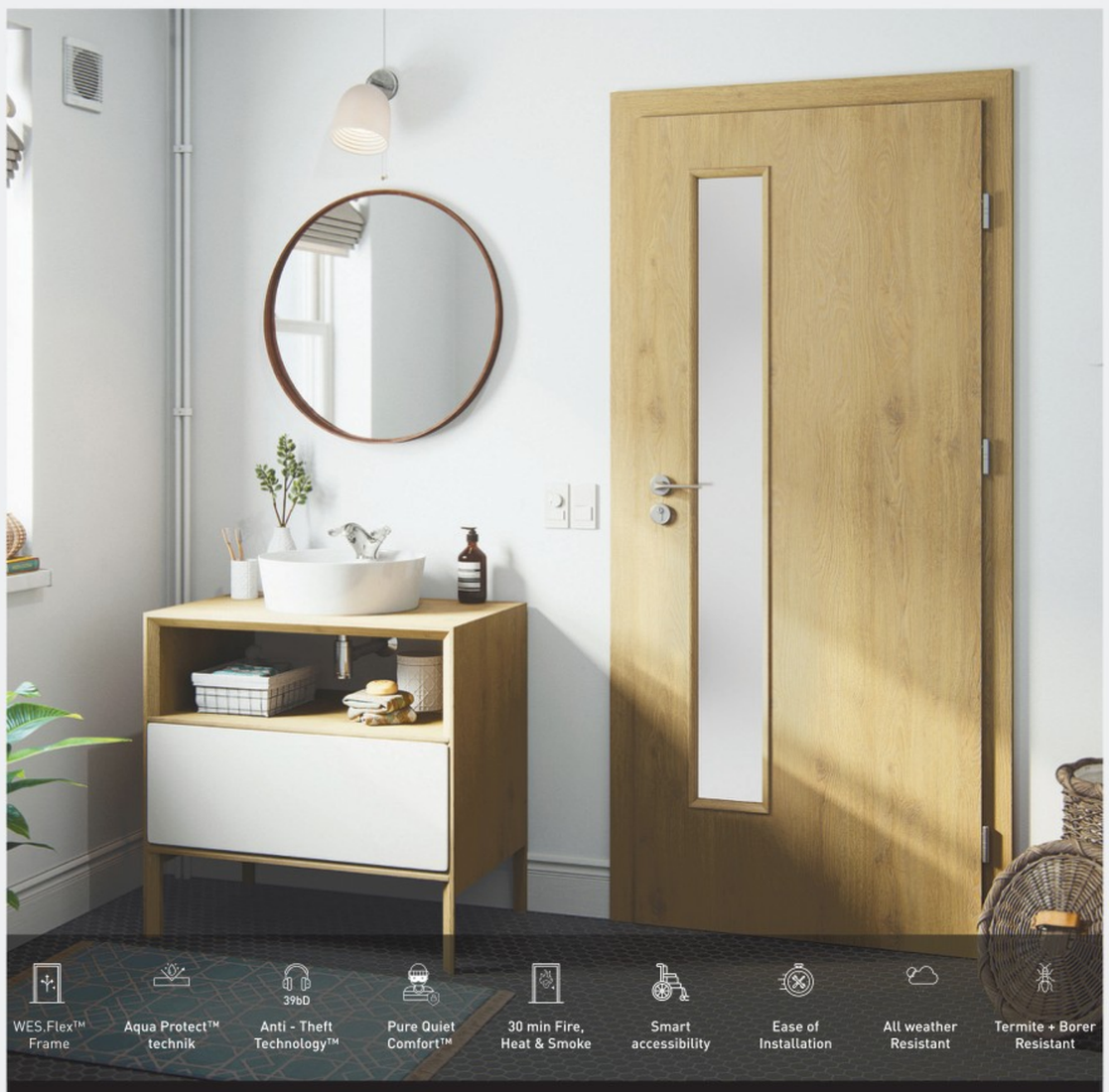

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There is no quick fix to vibration issue: Aston Martin chief Newey

He feels powerless as manufacturer Honda is desperately trying to find a solution; the problem has had an impact on the performances of drivers Alonso and Stroll and also raised fears that they can suffer nerve damage in their hands

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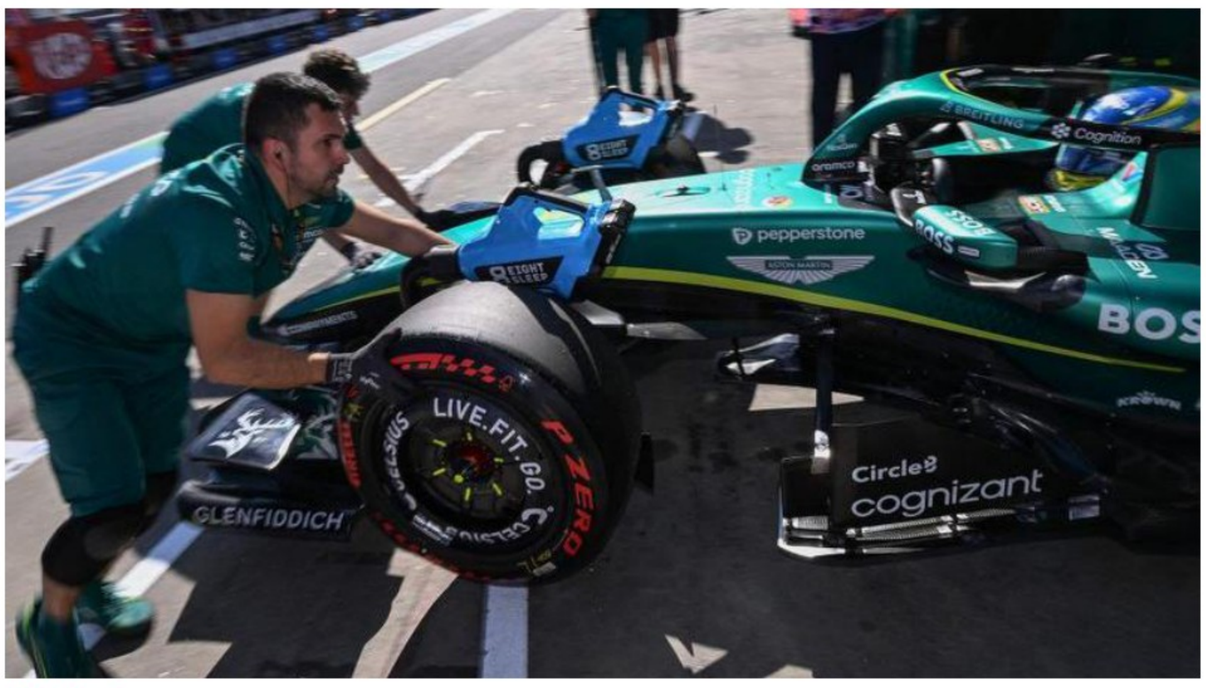

Work to be done: Mechanics push Alonso's car in the pits during a practice session in Melbourne. AFP

Aston Martin chief Adrian Newey said on Friday that a vibration issue plaguing its cars was "sucking all energy" out of the team with Fernando Alonso in "a hard mental place".

The Newey-designed car, with an unreliable Honda power unit, suffered countless issues through pre-season testing, and the problem has continued at the season-opening Australian GP in Melbourne. Vibration into the chassis has caused mirrors and tail lights to fall off and there are fears that Alonso and teammate Lance Stroll could suffer nerve damage in their hands.

A frustrated Newey said that there was no quick fix after the two cars completed just three laps between them in the first practice in Melbourne. "At the moment, I think there is a very clear action of work to try to reduce the vibration that is emanating from the PU (power unit)," Newey said.

"They are working on it. I cannot comment how quickly they can achieve that (reducing vibration), but it has to be the main drive. Once they have got past that, they can really start to concentrate on performance. But at the moment, this vibration issue is sucking all energy in every area."

One of the greatest designers the sport has seen, Newey admitted that he felt "powerless" as Japanese manufacturer Honda desperately tries to find a solution.

The issues are having an impact on the drivers – Alonso, 44, faces another season without a competitive car. "Fernando is, in my opinion, one of the true greats. His ability, his talent and his all-round capability. He should have won, in truth, far more than the two world championships," said Newey.

"He is still super-quick, super-talented, super-sharp talking to him... so for Fernando, it is a hard mental place to be in at the moment," added Newey.

Mohammedan, Bengaluru look to turn things around

Sports Bureau

Mohammedan SC will be determined to open its account in the Indian Super League 2025-26 season when it hosts Bengaluru FC in Kolkata on Saturday.

Mohammedan is rooted to the bottom of the table after suffering three successive defeats, the latest being a 1-5 loss to fellow Kolkata outfit Mohun Bagan Super Giant. Head coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo said that the team is focused on dealing with the demands of the ISL.

"Every single match is tough. We are playing with an all-Indian squad. We need a bit of time to cope with the pressure and intensity. The team is evolving and improving. We must be at our very best to compete and secure a positive result," said Wadoo.

Bengaluru, meanwhile, hopes to bounce back from its first defeat of the ISL campaign. Renedy Singh's BFC sits seventh with four points in three matches.

Speaking about the need to convert possession into points, Renedy, one of four Indian chief coaches this season, said: "We need to score goals to win. The key is not to chase the game. We must defend well, stay compact, and then look for our chances to score. At the same time, we have to improve our defending from set-pieces".

Yellove Time

Gearing up: Chennai Super Kings skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad and player Ayush Mhatre, who recently led the India under-19 team to the World Cup title, unveiled the jersey for the 2026 IPL season on Friday. Ruturaj expressed confidence that the team will clinch its sixth crown. Ashok Leyland announced a strategic partnership with the five-time IPL champion as its official sponsor. R. RAVINDRAN